STARS STRIPES.



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Deadly days prompt new crackdown on insurgents

Marines, Iraqis respond to bombings that killed almost 100 page 3



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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson trial: A Los Angeles judge has denied a request for a contempt citation against journalist Martin Bashir, who produced the documentary "Living With Michael Jackson" in 2003 and in the past week followed up with two more TV specials.

Court documents released Friday do not give a reason for Judge Rodney Melville's decision on the defense request which argued that Bashir violated the court's gag order prohibiting him, as a witness, from making public statements in the 46-year-old non star's child molestation case

Japan's ban on beef imports: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice raised the issue of Japan lifting completely a ban on imports of U.S. beef while meeting with her Japanese counterpart for bilateral talks in Washington on Saturday

The Japanese understood U.S. concerns and were trying to accelerate procedures and made a commitment the issue would be resolved," said a State Department official who attended the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hatushisa Takashima, the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said beef imports came up in the talks and that Japan would make an effort to meet U.S. requests.

World

Gays in the church: Leaders of the global Anglican Communion meet this week in Northern Ireland to continue a debate on gay bishops, a dispute in which no one vet scerns a solution.

"There will be no cost-free outcome from this," Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams told the Church of England's govern-

ing body last week To put it as bluntly as I can," he added, there are no clean breaks in the Body of Christ?

The primates, or leaders of the 38 national churches that comprise the communion, are meeting this week at the Dromantine Retreat and Conference Center, a Roman Catholic facility near Newry, Northern Ireland.

2002 plane crash: Families of 27 victims of a 2002 plane collision are suing Switzerland's air traffic control company and a Russian airline, the Swiss firm said Sunday

The 120 relatives have launched legal proceedings in a court in Barcelona, Spain, against Skyguide and Bashkirian Airlines, said Skyguide spokeswoman Rosemarie

Rotzetter.

Spain was the destination of a Bashkirian charter jet, which collided with a DHL International cargo plane over southern Germa-ny July 1, 2002, killing 71 people — most of them Russian schoolchildren.

Polio immunizations: Indian health authorities will launch a new offensive to eradicate polio after the crippling disease threatened to resurface in several states and in slums across New Delhi, an official said Sun-

India has made enormous gains in combatting polio over the past three decades From more than 20,000 new cases reported every year during the 1980s, the number dwindled to 135 new polio cases last year.

But authorities have identified five states and slum clusters in the national capital as areas at risk of a resurgence of polio which paralyzes and cripples children after three reported cases this year, an official said on condition of anonymity

Political unrest in Haiti: Heavily armed gunmen attacked Haiti's national penitentiary Saturday, killing one guard in a shootout that allowed some prisoners to escape. Haitian and U.N. peacekeeping officials said



Pontiff's recovery: Pope John Paul II blesses pilgrims during his traditional appearance at the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sunday. The popeappeared in good form and spoke in a strong, relatively clear voice during the address, his second since being released from the hospital 10 days ago. From his window at the Vatican, the 84-year-old pontiff read his entire address, stopping briefly to cough and skipping a Latin prayer but continuing to the end with no apparent problems. It was a marked contrast from recent speeches in which the pontiff has struggled to catch his breath. At the end, he raised his hand in blessing. "I wish you all a happy Sunday," he said.

Guards rushed two jailed allies of ousted leader President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to a secret location when in-

mates began rioting. Damian Onses-Cardona, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping said former force Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and former Interior Minister Joceler me Privert were later turned over to U.N. sol-

Authorities were investigating whether the Aristide attack was aimed at freeing Neptune and Privert, but neither man tried to get away, Onses-Cardona said.

Togo's army-backed government: Togo-lese officials on Sunday condemned the imposition of African sanctions on their latest army-installed regime, while jubilant opposition leaders urged yet more pressure at home and abroad to force the regime to vield to democracy

West Africa's regional bloc announced the sanctions - including a travel ban on Togo's leaders and an arms embargo — late Saturday, one of African leaders' most forceful responses yet against old-style assumptions of power on the continent

Taiwan independence: China on Sunday expressed concern over military coopera-tion between the United States and Japan and attacked their joint statement on Taiwan as an unwelcome intrusion into Chinese affairs

U.S. and Japanese officials meeting in Washington on Saturday listed "the peaceful resolution" of the Taiwan issue as a strategic objective and reaffirmed the two countries' security arrangements.

China claims self-ruling Taiwan as a part of its territory and has threatened to attack if the island declares formal independence.

Italy smog alert: Milan and several smaller cities in northern Italy barred cars and motorbikes from circulating Sunday to cut

Electric cars and other low-pollution vehi-

cles were exempted from the ban in Milan, which started at 8 a.m. local time and continued to 8 p.m. Other exceptions included parties for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Similar efforts were organized in Asti, Modena, Ferrara and Parma,

Syria-Lebanon relations: Syrian political activists called for a Syrian troop withdrawal from neighboring Lebanon in the wake of the assassination of former Lebanese pre-

expressed concern Sun-day at the level of anti-Syrian protests in Leba-

The call comes amid intense international pressure on Syria to withdraw some 15,000 troops from neighbor-



ing Lebanon amid speculation that Damascus and the pro-Syrian Lebanese government had a hand in Hariri's Feb. 14 killing. Both governments have denied the charge

War on terrorism

Kidnapped Italian journalist: Waving rainbow peace flags, tens of thousands of demon-strators marched through the streets of central Rome on Saturday to press for the release of an Italian jour

nalist abducted in Iraq earlier this month. The somber march

came days after 56year-old Giuliana Sgrena was seen in a wrenching video pleading for her life and begging for the withdrawal of for

eign troops from Iraq. The demonstration was planned before the video was shown Wednesday.



As demonstrators walked near the Colosseum, the arena's lights turned from white to gold, as they do when a death sentence is commuted somewhere in the world

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

New U.S.-Iraqi operation targets insurgents

Operation focuses on troubled cities west of Iraqi capital Baghdad

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — After two days of suicide bombings nationwide that killed nearly 100 people, U.S. Marines and Iraqi security forces launched a joint operation Sunday to crack down on insurgents in troubled cities west of Baghdad, as the military announced the death of another soldier.

The joint U.S-Iraqi operation was under way in several Euphrates River cities in Anhar province, including Hit, Baghdadi, Hadithah and the provincial capital, Ramadi, where authorities imposed a curfew from 8 pm. to 6 am. the millitary said in a statement.

"The security measures in and around the provincial capital are designed to ensure the safety of the populace by controlling access into the city," the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said in a statement.

"Access control points leading into the city

"Access control points leading into the city will screen vehicles for terrorists and insurgents as well as weapons, munitions and materials to produce improvised-explosive devices," or homemade bombs, the statement said. Ramadi, about 70 miles west of Baghdad,

has long been a center of insurgent activity. In Baghdad, Shiites stung by a string of bombings attended services in fortified funeral tents in hopes of avoiding a third straight day of attacks.

On Saturday, eight suicide bombers struck in a wave of attacks that killed S5 people as Iraqi Shiites commemorated Ashura, the holiday marking the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in a senenth-century battle for leadership of the Islamic world. Similar attacks Friday killed 36 people and injured dozens.

Shiite politicians, poised to take power for the first time in Iraq's modern history, have vowed not to allow the bloodshed to begin a civil war. On Sunday, a roadside bomb in Baghdad tar-



An Iraqi soldier stands guard Sunday over 92 Iranian and Afghan people arrested for trying to enter the country illegally without documents in the southern town of Basra in the lead up to Saturday's Shiite holy day of Ashura.

geting a convoy of Iraqi troops killed two Iraqi National Guardsmen, police 1st Lt. Ali Hussein al-Hamadani said. That same day, Iraq's major Sunni Arab tribes and political parties met in Baghada to discuss their roles in the new government elected Jan. 30 and the drafting of Iraq's new constitution.

Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim and head of the Iraqis Party list of candidates that won five parliamentary seats in the election, was to attend the meeting with the Sunni parties and tribes.

The government said two alleged terrorists were killed in a Feb. 11 raid in Baghdad. It identified the two as Abu al-Izz and Adel Mujtaba, known as Abu Rim, who the government said "disseminated propaganda" for the al-Qaida leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and created "terrorist Web sites."

Al-Jazeera television aired a videotape Sunday purporting to show al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri denouncing U.S. calls for reform in the region and urging the West to respect the Islamic world.

Al-Zawahri, who appeared sitting on the ground and in front of a brown background, said the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "explains the truth about reforms and democracy that America is allegedly trying to impose in our countries."

"Real security is based on mutual cooperation with the Islamic nation on the basis of mutual respect and the stopping of aggression." Al-Jazeera reported that the excerpt was part of a longer videotape, but it did not indicate the length of the entire tape.

In Washington, the CIA said it was trying to determine its authenticity.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,478 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,116 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 15 higher

than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military: • One Marine killed Sunday

in action in Anbar province.

One U.S. soldier was killed Saturday in a suicide

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Timothy R. Osbey, 34, and Army Spc. Joseph A. Rahaim, 22, both of Magnolia, Miss.; died Wednesday in Iskandariyah, Iraq, after their vehicle rolled when a road collapsed, assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment. McComb Miss.

Senators upbeat on Iraq despite security threats

BY TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As 55 people died from terrorist attacks in Iraq on Saturday, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said that much of Iraq was "functioning quite well" and that the rash of suicide attacks was a sign that the insurgency was failing.

"The concerted effort to disrupt the elections was an abject failure. Not one polling place was shut down or overrun," Clinton said inside the U.S.-protected Green Zone, a sprawling complex of sandbagged buildings surrounded by blast walls and tanks. The zone is home to the Iraqi government and the U.S. Embassy.

The five-member U.S. congressional delegation arrived in Baghdad as a series of suicide bombings and explosions killed 55 people, including an American solder. Much of the violence was aimed at Shite Muslims, commemorating Ashura, the festival marking the seventh century death of a leader of their sect.

"The fact that you have these suicide bombers now, wreaking such hatred and violence while people pray, is to me, an indication of their failure," Clinton said.
The senate delegation included
Republicans John McCain of Arizona, Susan Collins of Maine,
Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Wisconsin Democrat Russ

All but Feingold are members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which oversees the

Feingold

defense department budget.

Clinton said the last time she visited Iraq in late 2003, she traveled to the Green Zone by road

from the international airport.
Today, security is so bad that
none of the senators dared drive
through Baghdad's streets, even
in armored cars. Aside from the
Green Zone, their only glimpse of
the capital came from the relative
safety of U.S. military helicopters
that ferried them from the air-

"It's regrettable that the security needs have increased so much. On the other hand, I think you can look at the country as a whole and see that there are many parts of Iraq that are functioning quite well," Clinton said.

Collins, who last visited Iraq in mid-2003, said the increased violence was "disappointing." A year-and-a-half ago. "we

A year-and-a-half ago, "we

were able to move more freely in Baghdad," she said. "And one impression I have is how much more fortified Baghdad is than it was during that summer."

But Collins said much had been achieved since then, above all, the June handover of sovereignty from U.S. authorities to Iraq's interim government.

On Sunday, the senators will visit U.S. troops in other parts of Iraq.

McCain said his delegation met Saturday with interim Prime Minsiter Ayad Allawi, deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh and Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who is leading the American push to train Iraqi security forces so U.S. troops can eventually leave entually

Clinton and McCain have often challenged the Pentagon's planning and its management of the Iraq war.

"Tve said many times that we've made serious mistakes, and we've paid a very heavy price for those mistakes," McCain said.

"We have a long, hard, difficult struggle ahead of us, but I'm far more optimistic than I was before the election, because the Iraqi people proved that they would brave the risk of their very lives



...

U.S. senators speak to the media Saturday inside the heavily guarded Green Zone in Baghdad. They are, from left to right, Susan Collins, Hillary Clinton and John McCain, who, along with Sens. Russell Feingold and Lindsey Graham were in Iraq to meet with the country's inter-

in order to choose their government," he said. "To me, that's very encouraging."

Graham said the U.S. military was unlikely to withdraw anytime soon.

"The one thing I've learned from this trip is that we're a long way away from being able to leave. That is, if the Iraqi people want us to stay, we're gonna' be here for a while, in large numbers," Graham said. "I ask the American people to be patient, because what happens here will affect our security back home."

U.S. doubles troops inside Afghan army

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - The U.S. military has doubled the number of its soldiers embedded inside the Afghan army, a spokesman said Sunday, bolstering a force that's supposed to relieve American and NATO troops in warlord-plagued provinces and along the Pakistani border

A group of 288 U.S. National Guard soldiers arrived in Afghanistan on Friday and Saturday to serve as tactical trainers with the Afghan National Army, joining about 300 already embedded with Afghan units, Mai. Eric Bloom told The Associated

"They have begun the one-week training program before they deploy to the field to meet their (Afghan) counterparts." Bloom

288 National Guardsmen join about 300 members already embedded with units

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top commander of American forces in Afghanistan, requested the extra troops to accelerate the training of a 70,000-strong government force designed to tackle renegade faction leaders and remnants of the ousted Taliban

With both the United States and Britain considering a long-term "strategic partnership" with Afghanistan, it is unclear just when the new Afghan force will allow foreign troops to begin reducing their expensive deployment here since the ouster of the Taliban in 2001.

Starting in March, six battalions are to be trained simultaneously with the aim of having the entire force ready by December 2006, nine months earlier than originally planned, officials said earlier this month.

Barno has suggested that the American contingent of 17,000 could be trimmed this year if a reconciliation drive with Talihan followers takes off, though there is scant evidence that it is producing results.

However, U.S. commanders insist the new troops are proving excellent allies in combat operations against militants near the Pakistani borders and that the multieth-

nic army is accepted by villagers in the Pa shtun-dominated south, where the Taliban drew their main strength.

Meanwhile, a caller identifying himself as a former defense minister for the ousted Taliban regime said that Afghanistan's harshest winter in years is curbing Taliban attacks on U.S. and government forces, insisting the guerrilla campaign will resume once the weather eases.

"We will step up attacks as the weather changes," the caller, who said he was Mullah Obaidullah Akhund, told The Associat-

The U.S. military says that three years after the fall of the Taliban the hard-line militia's resistance is waning. The military says it is still conducting operations during the traditionally quieter winter months but has reported few contacts with insurgents.

Current list of Iraq coalition members hard to come by

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sometimes it's hard to know who your friends are - even if they're helping you fight a war

President Bush, who hopes to coax more Iraq support from European allies this week, used to boast that 50 nations had joined the United States in Operation Iragi Freedom

Today, a public listing is no-where to be found.

One thing, though, is clear: The coalition is shrinking.

"I expect to see the coalition countries begin paring down their forces as they complete their contributions," Defense Sec-retary Donald H. Rumsfeld told the House Armed Services Committee last week.

While a current list of coalition countries - those helping out in Iraq with troops, equipment, mon-etary or political support — is not

Netherlands

Number of troops in multinational force 0-199 200- 1,000-

4.999

Czech Republic

Shrinking multinational forces in Iraq

President Bush used to boast that 50 nations had joined Operation

Iraqi Freedom, Currently, there are 25 other countries with troops

... Latvia

More than

5,000

easy to come by, there is a public listing of the countries that have actual troops in Iraq. These 20-plus countries, which have combat and support forces in Iraq under the command of Gen. George Casey Jr., make up the multinational force

Daniel Goure, a Defense Department official in the first Bush administration, said current Bush officials apparently decided to start talking about a "multinational force" instead of a "coalition" to avoid questions about which countries were in or out.

"They're anticipating what is coming down the road." Goure said. "It's an acceptance of the fact that countries are going to be withdrawing

Also, by formally listing only the countries that have troops in the multinational force, the ad-ministration can avoid identifying countries that don't want to make their contributions known to the world, Goure said.

Georgia

Bulgaria

· Azerbaijan

A Marine from Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, Fifth Regiment, 1st Marine Division patrols a street in the northern portion of Fallujah. The house is marked with an "X" to indicate that U.S. and Iraqi security forces have checked and cleared it for weapons. The family who returned to live there has written "There is family" to indicate civilians inside.

U.S. feeling pressure to rebuild Fallujah

BY JACKIE SPINNER The Washington Post

FALLUJAH, Iraq - A few days before U.S. ground forces invaded her city in early November. Raja Hamdi Hussein locked the gate of Taburak primary school, where she is director of girls, and fled to Baghdad to wait out the assault.

When she returned this month, she looked around the school and cried, Hussein said in her small office, cold from the wind that was blowing in through shattered windows. The white walls were covered with messages that U.S. troops presumably left when they searched the premises for insurgents and weapons

Fallujah Kill Bodys," one message read. "USA No. 1," said another. And on a wall behind her, next to framed verses from the Koran, the Islamic holy book: "We came. We saw. We took over all. P.S. To help you."

Schoolbooks were strewn about, the doors were broken down and student records were torn and scattered, Hussein said. The scene was almost too much to face, she said, grappling with how to move on with her life amid the rubble of the nearly two-month battle

Like many residents who have returned to Fallujah, Hussein is not sure how she feels about the military operation that silenced a terrifying insurgency but left the city in ruins and with an occupying force whose armored vehicles roam the streets. "I cried so much. This is my dear city," she said,

clasping her plump fingers, which peeked out of the sleeves of a long black dress.

"We were hoping the Americans would bring us a better life than we had."

As the battlefield is gradually transformed into a

construction zone, U.S. officials acknowledge that they have a limited amount of time to establish faith among residents eager for life to return to normal. If they do not rebuild the city quickly enough, the officials say, they risk losing their already tenuous support, a potentially dangerous situation with insur-gents still reported in the city.

"We have a matter of weeks to get this right," said Col. John R. Ballard, commander of the Marine 4th Civil Affairs Group, based in Washington.

Much of Fallujah was destroyed by artillery rounds, gunfire and bombs, as U.S. forces battled insurgents who held the city for seven months. Most residents fled in advance of the operation, and those who returned expressed dismay at the destruction.

The Marines have paid \$200 in reparations to each of about 3,200 families, an initial payout to help residents returning to the city, Ballard said. The Iraqi government is in charge of assessing damage to homes and businesses and awarding compensation, but Ballard said those payments had not yet been handed out.

U.S. forces are working with local contractors and the Iraqi government to restore electricity and services. In the two months since residents were allowed back in the city, U.S. and Iraqi officials have reopened 10 schools, three medical clinics and two

"We are seeing the population starting to rebuild itself," Ballard said. "In the last two to three weeks, bakeries, barbershops, markets have opened back

The United States has earmarked about \$130 million for initial reconstruction projects in Fallujah and initiated contracts for about half of them, said Cmdr. Alan Flenner of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Engineering Group.

Military health care an ordeal for Marine

BY AMY ARGETSINGER

PHOENIX — When Marine Lance Cpl. Chris Shotwell developed dysentery in Iraq, the physicians attached to his unit were on the case immediately. Same thing when his elbow became infected from a desert bug bite. They fixed him up with andesert bug bite.

tibiotics in no time.

So, months later, when he awoke in a hospital, stitches in his head and tubes in his arm, with no recollection of his Pontiac Grand Am flipping end to end on the highway that led back to his California base, he expected the same level of attention. I'm a Marine, he remembers thinking. I'm going to get taken care of.

But when doctors declared he would need rehabilitation, Shotwell received a surprising response from base officials: Go get it at a veterans' hospital.

His days as a Marine, it turned out, were numbered, owing to memory problems and other brain damage from the accident that had left him unfit for duty. But Veterans Affairs couldn't take him until he was officially out of the Marines. And that discharge wouldn't become official until more

Rehab is interrupted amid conflicts over recovery and role of military versus VA

than nine months after his car wreck — a period doctors say is most crucial for the long-term recovery of patients with brain

Exactly what happened in Shotwell's case is in dispute. Navy medical officials say their tests indicated the Marine did not need further rehabilitation, though reports from both his civilian therapists and a mili-

tary neuropsychologist recommended it. Federal officials and veterans' advocates say that the case may represent a bureau-cratic glitch but one that is nonetheless worrisome in a system that will soon have to help move thousands of badly wounded veterans into civilian life.

"There's no excuse to let anyone fall through the cracks," said Steve Robinson, executive director of the National Gulf War Resource Center, an advocacy group. "There are protocols for taking care of people when they are injured. Whether it's systemic or an individual (error), the effect on this Marine is devastating and there's no excuse for it."

The transition from military to civilian life is receiving renewed attention from lawmakers and the Pentagon now that more than 10,000 troops have been wounded or injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them badly enough to end their careers in uniform.

A recent report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that some wounded veterans may be missing out on vocational rehabilitation and job training programs offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The report called for closer working relationships between the major military hospitals where wounded truops receive their first stateside care and the VA

centers that treat them after discharge.

The report, though, pointed to a roadblock to closer collaboration between the agencies: If the VA reaches out to injured servicemembers whose discharge decisions are still up in the air, those efforts could clash with the Pentagon's attempts to boost retention.

Congressional aides and others said they have heard stories about servicemembers seeing some disruption in their health care as they move from the Pentagon's roster to the VA's. Still, they said Shotwell's case stands apart.

"No servicemember should have to wait for care," said Peter Gaytan, director of the veterans affairs and rehabilitation division of the American Legion.

Now that he has entered the VA system, Shotwell said he has been referred to vocational and physical rehab; he is still awaiting an appointment to determine whether he needs more rehabilitation for his memory problems.

Meanwhile, he remains concerned about his career options after leaving the Marines. His lingering cognitive difficulties could make office work or school impossible, while his coordination problems could rule out manual labor.

"The Marine Corps may have given up on me, but I haven't given up on the Ma-

84-year-old dentist asked to re-enlist

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/KR

Dr. Floyd Baker, of Philadelphia, holds a 1947 photo of himself when he was a young Army lieutenant and dentist in the Army at Fort Bragg, N.C. The 84-year-old has received a letter from an Army recruting station inviting him to re-enlist BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The last time Dr. Floyd Baker served in the U.S. Army, Harry S. Truman was president, Dinah Store's "Buttons and Bows" topped the music charts, "The Treasure of Sierra Madre" won an Oscar and the bikini made

So the 84-year-old semi-retired dentist from Philadelphia was a little surprised last August when he got a letter from a local Army recruiting station inviting him to re-enlist.

"I was honorably discharged in 1948," said Baker, who was drafted in 1946 and left the Army with captain's bars on his shoulders. "I thought the letter belonged to somebody else, knowing when I got in the Army and when I got out. I thought it was a mistake."

He started believing that maybe it wasn't a mistake when he got a similar letter two months later offering him a \$30,000 signing bonus, a \$58,646 loan-repayment option and a "generous retirement plan" to re-enlist.

Help the soldiers "on the front line fighting the war on terrorism," it said. "Among the difficulties facing them are receiving adequate dental care prior to being sent to areas of danger and conflict. Our soldiers are sacrificing so much for us and we would greatly appreciate the services of fine professionals like you."

Baker began thinking the Army's offer was serious after he talked last week to a senior-citizen friend at a Philadelphia-area Veterans Administration facility who'd received a similar letter.

Army officials, after a few gasps and guffaws upon hearing of the letters, called them an honest mistake.

"We need dentists, but we don't need them quite that old," saft Maj. Tanya Beecher, a Fort Knox, Ky., Army operations officer who helps process waiver requests for older enlistees. "We're pushing it when we request (a waiver) for someone 67."

A spokesman for the Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox said Baker's letter probably had resulted from someone not checking ages along with names from recruiting efforts or the mass-mailing lists the Army buys from marketing firms.

"Normally, we try to suppress these people — people who are too young or too old or currently in the military," Beecher said. "It's not foolproof, but we try to suppress them."

Whether the letters were a mistake or not, Baker said re-enlisting didn't fit into his plans for his golden years, even though "my wife and children say I should go back in with that much signing money" being offered.

"I told him, 'We can do this,' " Baker's 70-year-old wife, Gerty, said jokingly. "I thought the letter was a hoot. I'm going to frame it "

Chiropractor watches backs in Green Zone

BY MARK MOONEY

BAGHDAD — The rigors of Army life and the increasing use of older soldiers has led to a rash of bad backs and a need for therapy on the front lines.

Lt. Travis Robbins, the resident "back cracker" in Baghdad's Green Zone, has been straightening out the spines of three to four soldiers a day with spinal manipulation techniques.

Most of his patrons, he said, are infantry in the National Guard or reserve troops rather than the younger active-Army soldiers. Their spinal columns are bent or twisted out of position by a combination of having to wear 75 pounds of equipment, most of it in the front, sleeping on narrow cots and bouncing over rough roads in armored vehicles.

"The need for a physical therapist and a chiropractor is very high," said Robbins, a member of the Washington National Guard who is a registered nurse-practitioner back home in Spokane. "It keeps a lot of people on the front lines"

Robbins jokingly estimates that he has kept an entire company in Iraq. Some of the back injuries are so severe, he said, that without therapy the patients would have been returned to the U.S. for care. He said a company commander and sergeant in the Guard come to him for relief a couple of times a week.

Although the deployment of therapists isn't widespread, a battalion near the city of Balad specifically requested a therapist from the reserves, Robbins said.

The appreciation of his five-minute technique is audible. Spc. Art Molina, 39, grunted as Robbins began by digging his fingers into the base of his skull.

"This is to release muscle tension in the back of his neck," Robbins explained.

He then vigorously turned Molina's head back and forth, which was followed by a loud crunching sound. Molina made more grateful grunts.

By massaging the spine and twisting the back, Robbins said, he was realigning the spine and relieving pain. Molina got off the wooden bench smiling.

"Feels great," he said.

Right: Chief Petty Officer Stephen Zentz climbs a banister to paint the outside of Ecole Catholique Notre Dame des Anges de Nkok, a Catholic school in Libreville Gabon, as part of a community relations project done by sailors aboard the USS Emory S. Land. Far right: Sailors refurbish three class rooms of the Catholic school Saturday, cleaning the rooms of mold, hornets' nests. huge spiders, before painting.





Sailors show the 'other' side of the Navy

Emory S. Land sends volunteers to Gabon

By SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

LIBREVILLE, Gabon - Seaman Ap prentice Jordan Saffell wasn't bothered by the swelter of 104-degree humid heat. She wasn't crazy about the nickel-sized spiders, but they didn't thwart her spirits. Saffell, 18, was one of 24 sailors from the

USS Emory S. Land who volunteered Saturday to patch and paint a near-dilapidated school in the province of Essassa.

"It's awesome. I love it," Saffell said. "We actually get to come out here and help, and it feels like I actually did some-

thing." The submarine tender, based out of La Maddalena, Sardinia is midway through a two-month deployment to the West African countries of Cam eroon, Gabon and Ghana with missions spanning from repairing schools and orphanages to training

the African militaries to provide coastline "I like it. We're helping out people who don't have a way or the means of helping themselves," said Petty Officer 2nd Class David Miller, a Seabee.

While Gabon is a nation rich in petroleum, lumber and mined diamonds, its gov ernment leaders don't put education high on the priority-spending list, said Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Gabriel Mensah, a native of Ghana, where the Land will make its next

Years of neglect led to crumbled walls and roofs of local schools, such as the Catholic school the sailors fixed up.

"It's all joy. I cannot express it." school director Obounou Ella Dieudonne said in

French, the country's primary language.

The defense attaché office of the U.S. Embassy in Libreville runs the community relation projects with money supplied by U.S. European Command, said Army Staff Sgt. Ben Edouard.

With two of the five classrooms condemned the foundation is crumbling, the sailor volunteers refurbished the three sound rooms with new paint and patched roofs and ceilings. Officials scrapped a major restoration project when the price tag topped \$120,000 more than the \$100,000 new school built next door, which opened Jan.

13, Edouard said Key to the building project is the ad-dition of three bath-

rooms for the students, who used to cross a dangerous major roadway to reach a wooded area because they had no facili-

ties at the school. Edouard said More sailors volunteered for the commu nity relation projects than Mensah had jobs, a testament to their desire to help, he said. Sailors refurbished desks and chairs and played soccer at a 950-children orphanage in Doula, Cameroon, and spruced up classrooms and installed two basketb hoops and a volleyball net in Port Gentil,

"People of these countries see the U.S. Navy and think all we do is fight wars," Mensah said. "We're here to show the other side of the U.S. Navy."



Petty Officer 1st Class Arnaldo Torres prepares table centerpieces for a semi-formal reception aboard the USS Emory S. Land off the coast of Gabon.

Cooking under pressure on the Land

Hosting a dinner party for 48 people is chal- make due and do the best with what we've lenging enough, but toss in ambassadors, got. dignitaries, USDA regulations, food two weeks old, and saunalike conditions in a ship's galley, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Max Agpaoa was cooking under pressure.

Saturday night. Rear Adm. C. Van Mauney, director of Navy Europe Plans and Operations and Commander Submarines Almal reception aboard the USS Emory S. Land, the La Maddalena, Sardinia-based ship midway through a two-month deployent to three West African nations of Camroon, Gabon and Ghana.

tail and either the prime rib or mixed sea- head food entree were products of what he had in the fridge.

we started the deployment (on Jan. 25) said Agpaoa. "It's difficult. The food in Gabon is not approved for military use, and

ABOARD THE USS EMORY S. LAND - what I have is two weeks old. We have to

"A little of this and a little of that. It was

like shopping, only in my own fridge."
Usually, Petty Officer 1st Class Arnaldo Torres works in cargo, receiving shipments of food approved by the U.S. Department of

On Saturday, he was making flowers out of potatoes, carrots and radishes and decolied Naval Forces South, hosted a semi-for-rating a heads of lettuce for centerpieces placed at tables hosting ambassadors to Gabon from countries such as Lebanon, Rus-

sia, Cameroon, Niger and Spain. "This is what the Navy taught me," joked Torres as he gingerly centered a tooth-Agpaoa's planned menu of shrimp cock- pick-pricked potato flower in the lettuce

"This is very out of the ordinary for us, said Chief Petty Officer Chad White said of "The menu is based on what we got before preparing a lavish meal on the ship. "We're not used to working in this heat and preparing such an important dinner.'

- Sandra Jontz

USAFE building ties with humanitarian program

By Russ Rizzo Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN, Germany Much attention is paid to fighting of the War on Terror with bombs and bullets, but Capt. Jack Jack man thinks of it in terms of build-

Jackman, a member of U.S. Air Force Europe's acquisition staff, heads a humanitarian program aimed at fostering good relations with some of the most impoverished countries in the world.

Jackman currently oversees 25 projects valued at \$3.8 million in countries such as Botswana and Namibia. He works to build solar-powered water wells in Mali, a center for foster children who lost parents to AIDS in Tunisia, and a health care center in Guinea. The most recent fruit of Jack-

man's labor is a community center in a remote village in Namibia that opened Feb. 14. Like all his other projects, Jackman found a contractor within the Air Force to hire local companies to build the

"You'd be amazed what we can do with little money," Jackman said

The humanitarian relief program is part of a larger Department of Defense effort to foster good rela-



The thinking goes that if the United States helps lift countries out of poverty, people there are less likely to become terrorists and more

likely to build strong relationships with the United States, Jackman said The program also helps coun-

teract a negative image that people in some parts of the world hold of the United States because of wars in the Middle East, Jack-

"We want to show that we are also doing positive things," Jackman said. "A school is built and the local village sees how it was fully funded by the U.S. with no strings attached. It's good will It's helping people in need.

Ambassadors propose projects such as the community center in Namibia to the State Department which approves about half of all proposals, Jackman said. Then the Department of Defense funds the programs, sending money to its different branches

In fiscal 2004, European Command received \$7.12 million to contract out humanitarian work and gave \$1.35 million to the Air Force. Jackman said U.S. Air Force

Europe quadrupled the number of humanitarian projects it coordinated under the program in the past year and a half - a trend he hopes will continue

USAFE humanitarian projects

U.S. Air Forces in Europe's humanitarian relief program, part of a broader Department of Defense effort, aims to foster good relations with unstable regions worldwide. Below are some examples of USAFE's ongoing projects.



carries forward a

museum "storu

line" that stretches

from the trenches of

Cantigny, France,

in World War I.

through North

Africa, Normandy,

Vietnam, and the

Persian Gulf to the

valleys of Kosovo.

1st ID museum adds Iraq display in time for troops' return



Shauna Holman works on the new Operation Iraqi Freedom display at the 1st Infantry Division Museum near the division headquarters in Würzburg, Germany. The \$70,000 display is about two-thirds finished, said museum Curator Gabriele Torony, and should open sometime this spring, though no date has been set.

BY STEVE LIEWER Stars and Stripe:

WÜRZBURG, Germany - The 1st Infantry Division is not yet fully home from it's try DIVISION IS NO. YET THIS THOME AND A SHAPE YEAR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

try Museum — just outside the division's headquarters building in Würzburg — are

working on a busily new \$70,000 display dedicated to the Big The new display Red One's role in Oper-

ation Iraqi Freedom. Gabriele Torony, the museum's curator, said the new display carries forward a mu seum "story line stretches from the trenches of Cantigny, France, in World War I, through North Africa, Normandy, Viet-nam, and the Persian Gulf to the valleys of Kosovo.

It opens with the facade of an armored Humvee that will hold a touch-screen computer, then lead visitors through an archway built to resemble the

marble pillars at the 1st ID's recent palace headquarters in Tikrit, Iraq.

The archway leads to an Iraqi street scene featuring an Iraqi policeman behind a faux concrete barricades, a U.S. soldier and Iraqi soldier jointly preparing to storm into a closed building, and a female 1st ID soldier talking to an Iraqi woman and child. The floor is gritty and sandlike, with embedded glass boxes displaying examples of the insurgents' homemade bombs.

In one corner is a tribute to the division's heroes: the names of the 155 troops from the division and its attached units who died in Iraq. Standing in front of their names is a mannequin wearing an actual uniform be-longing to Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, the division's first winner of the Silver Star for his bravery during the April 9, 2004, Battle of Baqouba. He is still in Iraq. Later, Torony said, a uniform from Sgt.

Billy Barnes, the first Big Red One soldier to earn a Purple Heart in Iraq, will stand be-

side it Barbara

Rower who retired Jan. 31 as curator of the Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Va., has been sorting through thousands of digital images from the Internet, military photographers and in-dividual soldiers. A few will be printed and mounted on the walls of the display, while hundreds more will run as part of video displays.

"I love doing this kind of stuff," she said. Torony said the display

two-thirds complete, but no date has been set yet for the grand opening. She has been working with the division's historian, Maj. Scott Znamenacek, who has been collecting artifacts for the display in Iraq. He's now back home, she said, and this week will begin working full time to get it finished.

confident it will be ready before the 1st ID's official "Welcome Home" cere-mony in May, and hopeful she'll be able to lift the curtain as early as March.

'We're anxious to get it open," she said. nail Steve Liewer at:

Iwo Jima veteran seeks acknowledgment

WWII Marine insists he was present for the first flag raising on Mount Suribachi

BY BRIAN MELLEY The Associated Press

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. The old man gazes at the photo of the flag flying over Iwo Jima and sees himself 60 years younger, a Marine in uniform with a radio on his back and his head tilted up at the Stars and Stripes.

It's not the photo known the world over of six men struggling to raise Old Glory. No, this is a black-and-white of the smaller American flag first raised by Marines atop Mount Suribachi, earlier the same day. But because of the iconic later picture, this event is largely lost to history

And as another anniversary of the flag-raising arrives Wednes-79-year-old Raymond Jacobs says he has been similarly overlooked all this time

The young radioman in the photo is himself, Jacobs insists. And armed with pictures, news clippings, correspondence and his own account of the siege on extinct volcano, white-haired former Marine has been rounding up veterans, members of Congress and authors as allies in his fight for recognition.

"When the folks in Washington. D.C., kept saying, 'No, no, no,' I got a little bit pushed so I said, 'I'm going to prove it to them,' Jacobs says. "I understand their skepticism because there have been any number of people who've claimed to have been part of this group and they weren't, they were just telling sea stories

Jacobs' story

Jacobs' story begins Feb. 19 1945, when he and thousands of Marines were pinned down on the black sand beach as bullets, mortars and artillery rained down from an invisible enemy burrowed in the island.

On the morning of Feb. 23, after a four-man reconnaissance patrol returned from the 550-foot member of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, says he was ordered to fill in for Easy Company's radioman on a combat patrol up the mountain.

With a 40-pound radio strapped to his back and carrying an M-1 rifle, Jacobs says, he made a nerve-racking scramble up the rugged peak with 40 strangers.

After making it to the summit without resistance a group of the men tied a small flag to a length of water pipe found in the debris and hoisted it. When it was aloft, a spontaneous roar rose from the shore. "All of a sudden you could hear

voices down below screaming and yelling and cheering," Jacobs says. was an incredible feeling, a very emotional feel.

Lou Lowery, a photographer for Leatherneck mag azine, captured the moment from several vantage several vantage points. But those photos were not published for two years. That piece of history was shelved when a second patrol planted a replacement flag.

The larger flag was run up the hill, and AP photographer Joe Rosenthal forever defined the moment as his shutter caught five Marines and a Navy corpsman push-

ing the second flagpole skyward. Jacobs endured the horror of the battle for another two weeks until he was hit with shrannel from a Japanese mortar on March 10 and evacuated with wounds that earned him a Purple Heart.

Fight for recognition

ing home — and he was puzzled at first because it didn't denict what he witnessed

It was not until 1947, after the war, that Lowery's picture of the first flag raising was published in Leatherneck. In response to an inquiry from Jacobs, Lowery wrote that his story had been kept secret because Rosenthal's shot provided good publicity for the Ma-

Retired Col. Dave Severance, who was the commander of the company that raised the initial flag, says he's documented about 50 phony claims by men who said they

44 When the folks in Washington. D.C., kept saying, 'No, no, mander no,' I got a mission little bit It was specificalpushed so I

said, 'I'm going dioman at command that a replacement was sent Severance

to them.'77 Raymond Jacobs

to prove it

someone went up Suribachi with a radio, but he disputes it was Ja-Retired Col Walt Ford editor

of Leatherneck, says Jacobs was a hero for being on Iwo Jima, but he adds some people have wondered why he waited so long to raise his voice and why he didn't attend Iwo Jima reunions when more living veterans could have

verified his account. Ford says the sole recognized survivor of either flag raising, Charles Lindberg, said he doesn't remember Jacobs. Attempts to Jacobs only became aware of reach Lindberg by phone were un-

were there

that day. Severance says he doesn't buy Jacobs' story. Tactically, he doesn't think Jacobs' comwould have released his radioman for the

ly because Severance kept the Easy Company ranost ac. knowledges that

Raymond Jacobs identifies himself in a photo as a Marine radioma atop Mount Suribachi, on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, in his home in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. Jacobs, 79, says that he was among a 40-man plus platoon that scaled the mountain in February 1945 and

After retiring in 1992 from KTVU-TV in Oakland, where he worked 34 years in news, Jacobs began more research. His effort took a leap forward when Leatherneck ran more of Lowery's photos, revealing the shadowy face of the radioman who was out of view in the original photo.

raised the first U.S. flag on Japanese soil.

Jacobs said he recognized himself immediately.

Forensic photographic expert mes Ebert compared pictures of Jacobs with the Lowery photos and found his claim convincing. While Ebert couldn't decipher the name on a canteen cover, he concluded: "The radioman shown in the Lowery photos taken on Mount Suribachi is Ray Jacobs."

Recruit's death probe

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Four more Marines have been sus-pended while authorities investigate the death of a recruit who died during a training ex-ercise, military officials said Saturday.

The four Marines saw a drill

instructor grab recruit Jason Tharp by the shirt and hit him in the chest, according to a video shot by Columbia televi-sion station WIS a day before Tharp died. The drill instructor was suspended earlier.

Tharp, of Sutton, W.Va., drowned Feb. 8 in a swimming pool while participating in a water-survival training course at Parris Island. Military officials have ac-

knowledged the drill instruc-tor's actions violated regula-

Capt. Jamie Nott, a Parris Is land spokesman, would not give the name or rank of any of the suspended Marines.

Navy honors lifesaving operation from WWII

Los Angeles Times

More than six decades after the fact, the Navy on Sunday will honor a World War II sailor for one of the most famous lifesaving acts of the war

Retired Vice Adm. Michael L. Cowan will present a Navy Commendation medal to retired Lt. Cmdr. Wheeler B. Lipes, who in 1942 performed an emergency appendectomy while aboard a submarine in the South China Sea.

Lipes was a hospital corpsman aboard the Seadragon when a fellow sailor suffered a severe appendicitis attack. Without a doctor on board and unable to surface for fear of drawing enemy fire, the sub's commander gave Lipes permission to perform the operation with improvised equipment and no antibiotics. The incident led to a Pulitzer Prize-winning story by Chicago Daily News reporter George Weller, who interviewed Lipes

crewmem hers after the sub returned port in Australia

other

The story nublished in papers country. caused a sen-

sation



among Americans eager for uplifting news in the early stages of the war. Lipes gave speeches as part of the drive to sell U.S. war bonds and increase industrial productiv-

Hollywood used the appendicitis incident in the submarine movies "Destination Tokyo" and "Run Silent, Run Deep." It was also the subject of a television doc-

umentary in the 1950s. But the Navy never formally recognized Lipes, now 85, for say ing the life of shipmate Darrell

Dean Rector. In fact, doctors who ran the Na-

medical service during World War II were annoved that Lipes had practiced medicine without a license.

Two years ago Cowan - who until recently was the Navy's surgeon general — heard of the Lipes incident and decided to correct the Navy's oversight. Lipes' resourcefulness, Cowan told a gathering of Navy doctors and corpsmen in San Diego, exempli-fies the kind of "can-do" spirit

needed to provide emergency care for frontline personnel during the war in Iraq

The chief of naval operations approved a medal for Lipes. But before it could be awarded, the former sailor was diagnosed with

So on Sunday, Cowan is schediled to make the presentation to Lipes at the Naval Hospital at Camp Leieune, near Lipes' home in New Bern, N.C.

The commendation praises Lipes for his "resourcefulness and skillful and heroic surgical intervention under highly unfavor-

able conditions. Lipes retired from the Navy in

1962 and went on to become a hospital executive. Rector did not survive the war; he was aboard the submarine Tang when it was sunk in 1944 during an attack on a Japanese transport.

IN THE WORLD

Israel gives final OK on Gaza pullout

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's Cabinet gave

JERUSALEM — Israel's Canning gave final approval Sunday to the government's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, marking the first time an Israeli government decided to dismantle Jewish settlements on land claimed by the Palestinians for a future state.

Ministers voted 17-5 for the plan, sealing the political defeat of withdrawal opponents seeking to put the plan to a national referendum. The evacuation of about 9,000 settlers will begin in July and take two months.

Later Sunday, the Cabinet also was to approve the final route of Israel's separation barrier in the West Bank, initially constructed to keep out Palestinian attackers but increasingly seen as a blueprint for a final border between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

The barrier would cut off more than 6 per-

cent of the West Bank, about one-third of the land that would have been taken in an earlier plan rejected by Israel's Supreme Court. Expected to run about 425 miles, the barrier is about one-third complete.

arrier is about one-third complete.

With Sunday's twin votes, the govern-

ment of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon began charting Israel's final borders unilaterally, something none of his predecessors have attempted since Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war.

Sharon, a former patron of settlers, told Cabinet ministers that "it's not an easy day, it's not a happy day," but the withdrawal was vital for Israel's security.

The government plans to allocate \$871 million for the settlers, with compensation depending on the size of a family, whether it owns or rents, what it owns and how long it has lived in the settlement.

The Gaza vote apparently meant to soften the sting to the Palestinians of what is widely seen as the de facto annexation of



Israell Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, left, Vice Premier Shimon Peres, center, and Cabinet Secretary Yisrael Maimon, right, attend a weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on Sunday where Sharon's cabinet gave final approval of a summer withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

parts of the West Bank.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas reiterated in an interview with the German news magazine Der Spiegel that Israel must dismantle all settlements and halt construction of the barrier.

"What right does Israel have to build settlements on our land?" Abbas said. In the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, Israeli troops killed one Palestinian and wounded a second on suspicion they tried to smuggle arms from Egypt to Gaza. A third man was arrested for interrogation, the army said.

The only way the withdrawal could now be stopped is if Sharon fails to get his 2005 budget passed by March 31. If he has no budget by then, his government automatically falls

Bangladesh ferry capsizes leaving 81 dead, 100 missing

BY FARID HOSSAIN

The Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — A double-decker passenger ferry capsized and sank during an overnight tropical storm in Bangladesh, leaving at least 81 people dead and more than 100 missing, rescue officials said Sunday.

The MV Maharaj was carrying about 200 people when it capsized Saturday night on the Buriganga River just outside the capital, Dhaka.

Divers found 44 bodies inside the sunken ferry, while 37 others were plucked from the river, said Nurul Islam, a fire brigade official supervising the rescue work.

"The accident happened in darkness and it's still unclear how many people died or survived," said Mahbubur Rahman, a local government official.

Some passengers were rescued by villagers and fishing boats. "We fear many of the missing people are

trapped inside the ferry and presumed dead," said Syed Monwar Hossain, an official at state-run Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority that oversees the operation of river ferries.

A salvage ship was trying to recover the ferry with cranes and ropes from about 20 feet of water, Hossain said.

The vessel was about 30 minutes into its



An unidentified man cries Sunday as he mourns shipwreck victims on the banks of the Buriganga River in Bangladesh.

journey from Dhaka to the eastern town of Chandpur when gusty winds struck just before midnight Saturday, Many of the passengers were going home to see their family ahead of two days of public holiday when it cansized and sank near the town of Pagla.

Thousands of people gathered on the riverbanks to look for their loved ones.

President Iajuddin Ahmed urged authorities to speed up rescue work, his office said. An investigation into the accident was ordered.

British Navy promotes equal treatment for homosexuals

A Defense

Ministry

spokesman

said "the

armed forces

reaard sexual

orientation

as a private

matter."

BY MICHAEL McDonough
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's navy, which until five years ago banned gays from its work force, said Monday it is joining a campaign to ensure homosexual employees are fairly treated.

The Royal Navy said it was entering a program organized by gay rights group Stonewall which advises employers on dealing with gay, lesbian and bisexual staff.

The government lifted a ban on gays serving in Britain's armed forces in 2000 after a lengthy campaign spearheaded by Stonewall. The Ministry of De-

fense had said lifting the ma ban would undermine morale and fighting capability, but the Euro-

raie and righting capability, but the European Court of Human Rights ruled in 1999 that the restriction was a breach of human rights.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said Monday that "the armed forces regard sexual orientation as a private matter." He said the Royal Navy's decision to join the Stonewall Diversity Champions scheme was "part of our equal opportunities and diversity policy anyway." During the first year of the program,

seminars, pamphlets and specific advice will be available for servicemen, Stonewall said.

Lt. Cmdr. Craig Jones, who has served with the Royal Navy for 16 years but has only been openly gay for the last five, described the move as "superbly positive."

"It's really nice to see the Royal Navy demonstrating confidence in being able to be so positive about the issue." Jones said.Some 90 organizations employing more than 2 million people are part of the Diversity Champions program,

including the British division of IBM, the Foreign Office and British Telecom.

Britain's army and air force have not joined the scheme, but the Ministry of Defense spokesman said they are "equally committed to equality and diversity. So far, it's the Navy that has signed up to the Stonewall campaign."

Military Sales Program



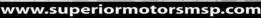
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Pakistani Shiite Muslims beat themselves with razor blades attached to chains as self-punishment Saturday in Islamabad, Pakistan, ahead of Ashura, the holiest day in the Shiite Muslim calender. Pakistani police arrested 36 Sunni Muslim extremists in the run-up to Ashura to prevent a repeat of last vear's violence.

Pakistan's Shiites mark holy day

Thousands join marches across nation despite fears of suicide attacks

BY NASEER KAKAR The Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan — In an age-old ritual to mark Ashura, the holiest day in the Shiite Muslim calendar, about 20,000 worshippers marched through this southwestern Pakistan city on Sunday despite fears of a suicide attack.

Police said they arrested 36 Sunni Muslim extremists in the three days leading up to the procession through Quetta, to prevent a repeat of last year's violence when a suicide attack on the Shitte devotees left 44 people dead.

About 5,000 policemen and 2,000 troops were deployed Sunday, and road blocks were thrown up to limit access into Quetta.

On Ashura — the 10th day in the

Islamic month of Muharram — Shiites mourn the seventh century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Imam Hussein, an event that led to the split in Islam between the Shiite and Sunni sects.

Processions were held across Pakistan, including Karachi, the country's biggest city and often the scene of sectarian violence.

In Quetta, police estimated that about 20,000-25,000 people took part, beating their chests as they marched

Many flailed their bare backs with blades attached to chains to draw blood in a sign of penitence. Talib Hussain, a procession or-

Talib Hussain, a procession organizer, said dozens of mourners passed out because of their bleeding and were treated by doctors following in ambulances.

Quetta police chief Rafi Pervez

Bhatti said police had received intelligence that militants, possibly suicide attackers, were planning an assault against the procession.

Late Saturday, police arrested inie suspected members of the outlawed Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, bringing the number of arrests in the past three days to 36, he said. The group was blamed for last year's attack and for killing hundreds of other Shittes in the past.

On Friday, two suspected members blew themselves up in Quetta to avoid arrest.

Most of Pakistan's Sunnis and Shiites live peacefully together, but small radical groups on both sides have a violent agenda. About 97 percent of Pakistan's 150 million population is Muslim, and Sunnis outnumber Shiites by

Irish government: Sinn Fein leaders also command IRA

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — In an unprecedented challenge, the Irish government on Sunday publicly identified three of Sinn Fein's top figures — Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Martin Ferris as members of the Irish Republican Army command.

Sinn Fein rejected the accusations, which came as the party faced mounting accusations of involvement in a massive Belfast bank robbery and a wider IRA money-laundering network.

Until Sunday, successive Irish and British governments had declined to identify either Adams or McGuinness as members of the IRA's seven-member command, called the "army council," as part of its efforts to maintain good working relations with Sinn Fein's two key figures.

But during a live debate on a national radio station, Justice Minister Michael McDowell identified Adams, McGuinness and Ferra as IRA army council members. The government's foreign minister, Dermot Ahern, later backed that assessment. "We're absolutely satisfied that

"We're absolutely satisfied that the leadership of Sinn Fein and the IRA are interlinked," Ahern said.

McGuinness, who served two short prison sentences for IRA membership in the mid-1970s, denied the charge.

Ferris, who was caught in 1984 trying to smuggle weapons into Northern Ireland on a ship from Boston and spent eight years in prison, has already been identified by Irish government ministers as an IRA army council member. Ferris was elected in 2002 as one of Sinn Fein's five lawmakers in the 166-member Irish parlia-

A series of detailed books on the Sinn Fein-IRA movement have identified Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and McGuinness, a member of the party executive and the de-facto deputy leader, as members of the IRA army council since the mid-1970s.

Irish government leaders' new decision to shine a spotlight on these views comes at an unprecedented moment in Northern Ireland.

For the first time the Irish and British governments and other major parties in Northern Ireland unanimously agree that the IRA's refusal to disarm and disband is the key obstacle to achieving a lasting peace.

The Provisional IRA, as the

The Provisional IRA, as the group is formally known, has been observing what it calls "a complete essation of military operations" since 1997. Previously the group killed about 1,800 people during a failed 27-year campaign to abolish Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom.

The Good Friday peace accord prisoners and a place for Sinn Fein in a wider power-sharing government in Northern Ireland. But in exchange, Sinn Fein was supposed to observe "exclusively peaceful and democratic means" and the IRA was supposed to disarm fully by mid-2000.

Former Soviet republics

MOSCOW — Russia should accept the efforts of former Soviet republics seeking to mold their foreign policies separately from Russia's, but the process should be transparent, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Sunday.

Speaking on the eve of his first trip to Ukraine since the new government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko took office, Lavrov said former Soviet republics such as Ukraine and Georgia were free to choose their own paths.

Russia has watched warily as Ukraine and Georgia have sought to follow in the footsteps of the three Baltic countries, deepening ties with Western organizations like the European Union and NATO and movimout out from under Russia's shadow.

Three dead in raid ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia

Security forces stormed an apartment building in southern Russia on Sunday, killing three suspected Islamic militants who had barricaded themselves inside, law enforcement officials said. Footage broadcast on NTV showed thick smoke billowing from the apartment building in Nalchik, along with heavily armed soldiers rushing to enter the building. The incident is the latest in a

series of confrontations between law-enforcement authorities and alleged extremists in the volatile North Caucasus region, which includes Chechnya.

Dangerous snowfall

SRINAGAR, India — Kashmir remained cut off from the rest of India for a second day Sunday as heavy snowfall triggered avalanches that killed at least 18 people in the Himalayan region, police and officials

Road and air links with the Kashmir valley were snapped as the main airport in India's Jammu-Kashmir state was shut and highways were closed to traffic. Power outages plunged large parts of the state into dark-

At least 4,000 motorists and truckers were stranded on the main Jammu-Srinagar highway after the highway was blocked in many places by landslides.

Filmmakers aim to put human face on Netherlands' new asylum policies

The Dutch

aovernment is

aiming to expel

some 26,000

asulum-seekers

by mid-2007.

BY ANTHONY DEUTSCH The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Lucia Marama was 12 when her parents and a brother were murdered and she fled war-ravaged Angola for the Netherlands. Today she is almost fluent in Dutch, gets good grades, and wants to become a nurse.

Instead this high-schooler faces possible deportation as the Dutch government pursues one of the toughest immigration crackdowns in Europe, aiming to expel some 26,000 asylum-seekers by mid-2007. Now an army of 120 filmmakers

is fighting back with "26,000 Faces," a project to interview them one by one and air the results on national TV. "I hope the films will help change the perceptions of

viewers so that they think of people, instead of numbers. If that changes, it could influence the policymakers," says Corinne van Egeraat, the documentary maker who is filming Lucia Marama.

Holland's policy was once among the most tolerant in Europe, but like several European countries, it has been steadily rolling up the welcome mat for immigrants and refugees, driven by rising unemployment and post-Sent. 11. 2001. Fears of extremists in Muslim emigre communities.

The Netherlands' 3 million first- or second-genera-

tion immigrants make up 19 percent of the population of 16 million — nearly double the proportion in neighboring Germany. Around a million, or 6 percent of the population, are Muslim.

Immigration officials say that by February they had

reviewed \$,000 cases and that about 5,000 people had been deported or left voluntarily with a cash incentive. Another 3,000 applicants were reclassified as "dire" asylum cases and allowed to stay. Among those already deported is Lucia's 23-year-old brother, Angelo, expelled in December and not heard from since.

The power of the brief films, viewable at http://www.26000gezichten. nl/english.php, is the ordinariness — and Dutchness — of the lives

they reveal: a Chinese woman feeding her children, then talking in Dutch of her fears of being deported; a 7-year old boy from Azerbaijan who sits in a plain living room describing how his father was put in jail for six months.

The "26,000 Faces" project this month recorded a second series of 21 films to air starting March 11. They will be shown on a network which, although government-funded, is open to voices critical of government policy.

Second head removed CAIRO, Egypt - Egyptian doctors on Saturday removed an undeveloped head that was linked to the skull of a 10-month-old girl, an official

from the health ministry said.

Ahmed Barakat said sur-

geons at a hospital in the Nile

Delta town of Benha, some 25

miles north of Cairo, treated

the baby for craniopagus para-

siticus, a rare birth defect

where a child's skull is linked

to the head of an undeveloped

twin. The rudimentary head is

usually thought to be parasitic.

urday lasted about 13 hours

and that the girl, Manar, is

trying to prevent any complica-

A senarate twin sister

Noora, is healthy after initial

now in intensive care.

tions," he said.

He said the operation on Sat-

"She is fine and doctors are

Ex-presidents view Aceh province

Devastation stuns Bush, Clinton

The Associated Press

LAMPUUK, Indonesia — Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton peered from the windows of a helicopter at a vast wasteland of destruction on Sunday, touring Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province as the leaders of private U.S. aid efforts for victims of the disaster.

The two men met Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono after arriving from Thailand, where they got their first look at the devastation and grief unleashed by the Dec. 26 catastro-

Bush and Clinton said they came away reassured that Indon sia would channel aid funds in a transparent, effective way

'Nothing turns private donors off more than if they saw waste, or fraud, or something like that," Bush said. "But we don't anticipate that. We're very reassured by what the president said, that it's essential that not only our observers and our NGOs, that the Indonesians go forward with us and with other donor nations to be sure that it's delivered most effectively, less overhead and certainly no corruption

the world's most corrupt coun-tries, and local anti-corruption watchdoos are already alleging that officials have been siphoning aid meant for Aceh

U.S. military helicopters ferried the two former presidents and their entourage from the provincial capital Banda Aceh over a barren desert-like landscape stretching deep inland from the coastline, to the village of Lamp-

uuk, where the sole structure left standing is a large white mosque. The village had 6 500 inhabitants before the disaster. Only 700

"I've never seen anything like this in my entire life. Ever," Bush

Clinton asked a villager, Akhi Sukri, what the survivors needed "Everything," Sukri remost. plied

Standing amid the debris of Lampuuk, Clinton said that seeing the destruction first-hand helped him understand how so many people died. The official tsunami death toll ranges from 169,070 to 178,118. The number of missing is believed to be as high as 128,426, with most presumed dead.



Bush and Clinton later flew on to the USS Fort McHenry, a vessel that has ferried supplies, rice, water and clothing to shore. They thanked troops, posed for photo graphs with them, and donned baseball caps with the ship's insig-

The United States deployed a carrier battle group and about 20 helicopters for relief operations off Aceh's western coast - its bigdents George H.W. Bush. center, and Bill Clinton. right, visit the USS Fort McHenry, which is involved in rebuilding efforts in Acel Province, Indonesia, as they tour areas affected by the Dec. 26

gest military operation in South-

east Asia since the Vietnam War

Washington has pledged \$950 million for relief efforts for the

The two former presidents

were asked by current President

Bush, the elder Bush's son, to

lead the U.S. effort to provide pri-

vate aid to tsunami victims. They

were to arrive later Sunday in Sri

Lanka and planned to visit the Maldives on Monday.

tsunami-hit countries.

The twin sisters were horn on March 30 last year. Rabies-infected lung

FRANKFURT, Germany A German woman has died of rabies weeks after receiving a lung from a donor who was later found to be infected with the disease, hospital officials in Hanover said Sunday.

Two other patients who also received organs from the same 26-year-old donor remain hospitalized in critical condition in the cities of Marburg and Hannoversch Muenden. The donor showed no symptoms of rabies at the time of her death, health officials have said.

Doctors at the Hanover School of Medicine had been treating the woman, who died late Saturday, with the antiviral drug ribavirin and a combination of other medicines similar to a cocktail credited with saving the life of a rabies-infected teenager in the United

Three more patients who received organs from the same donor are still healthy.

In September a cocktail of drugs including ribavirin was given to Jeanna Giese, 15, after she was bitten by a bat at a Wisconsin church. Giese became the first person known to survive rabies without vaccina-

4 kids slain in China

BEIJING - Two men broke into a skating rink in China's far northwest and killed four children, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sun-

The report didn't speculate on a possible motive. Calls to area police rang unanswered Sunday night.

The men also seriously injured at least eight other children after they crashed into the rink on the third floor of a shopping center Sunday afternoon in Shanshan, a county in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, Xinhua said.

It didn't say what weapon they used One of the men jumped out

of the building and died, and the other was arrested by police, the report said. From The Associated Press

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By Stephanie Hoo The Associated Press nuclear nower.

BEIJING - A top Chinese Communist Party official was in the North Korean capital Sunday seeking a change of heart after Pyongyang reportedly rejected any further negotiations over its nuclear weapons program.

The head of the party's international department, Wang Jiarui, "exchanged views ... on international and regional issues" with North Korea's No. 2 leader Kim Yong Nam, Chinese state media reported without elaborating.

China is trying to draw North Korea back to six-nation talks on its nuclear program — a task that has taken on greater urgency since Pyongyang's explosive but unconfirmed declaration earlier

China urges N. Korea to talks this month that it has become a

Wang, who arrived in Pyongy ang Saturday for a four-day visit, also planned to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong II, according to South Korea's Munhwa Ilbo newspaper.

China's Foreign Ministry said Sunday it had no immediate comment on Wang's trip.

Chinese state television sought to put a positive spin on the talks, citing comments by the North's U.N. envoy, Han Sung Ryol, to a South Korean newspaper on Thursday that his country would return to talks under certain "preconditions," namely that the United States drop its "hostile policy" toward Pyongyang.

But China's state news agency, Xinhua, reported Saturday that the North had reiterated its decision on Feb. 10 to indefinitely suspend its participation in six-party talks with the United States. South Korea, China, Japan and Russia

During three rounds of talks in Beijing since late 2002. North Korea has demanded more aid and a peace treaty with Washington in exchange for abandoning nuclear development. North Korea had also sought

one-on-one talks with Washington but withdrew that offer on Saturday, citing what it called the United States' persistent at-tempts to topple the communist regime, Xinhua said.

North Korea "has no justification to take bilateral talks ... on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula with the United States Xinhua quoted an unnamed spokesman as saying.

Two Americans found dead in Mexico

MEXICO CITY - The bullet-riddled bodies of two U.S. citizens have been found in the central Mexican state of Michoacan, U.S. and Mexican authorities said Saturday.

The bodies of the Americans were with two other bodies found on Friday near Tacambaro, about 150 miles west of Mexico City

Family members identified the U.S. victims as Omar Chavez and Alejandro Munoz of Dallas, said Embassy spokeswoman Diana Page. Munoz was a U.S. Army reservist

The bodies of Mexicans Mariano Perez and Delfino Perez also were recovered, said Ignacio Roque, spokesman for the Michoacan state attorney general's office.

An assault rifle was used in the killings, an indication that drug trafficking groups may have been involved, according to local media reports.

But the federal attorney general's office, which can intervene in organized crime cases, on Saturin the hands of local prosecutors.

The U.S. State Department issued the travel alert in January, telling Americans that violent crime related to drug trafficking, including murder and kidnap-ping, had increased in northern Mexico along the U.S. border.

The four men had disappeared more than a week ago, and the bodies already showed signs of decomposition when discovered.

While the men appeared to have been shot to death, state authorities were performing autopsies. Roque said

President

leaves for

WASHINGTON - President

Bush set out Sunday on a Europe-

an trip to strengthen ties with allies after sharp disagreements

Lawn to his helicopter, waiting to

take him to Air Force One at near

by Andrews Air Force Base. The

president was accompanied by his wife, Laura.

NATO and European Union meet-

ings and hold separate meetings

with three of the most vocal crit-ics of the U.S.-led war in Iraq:

French President Jacques Chirac

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Russian President

agenda will be European negotia-

tions aimed at persuading Iran to

abandon its nuclear program and

Europe's plans to scrap its 15-year ban on selling weapons to

Bush was to arrive in Brussels

Sunday evening, local time, with

no events on his schedule.

Vladimir Putin. Other prickly issues on the

The president is making stops in Belgium, Germany and Slova-kia over five days. He will attend

over the war in Iraq. He waved and called out "See vou all." as he crossed the South

Belgium

IN THE STATES

Bush hopes to mend ties with European leaders

By Tom RAIIM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush is extending an olive branch to European leaders who opposed his Iraq policies. Recent international developments, plus a whirlwind charm offensive by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have holstered the prospects for a trans-Atlantic reconciliation.

Bush's own re-election, along with elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories, have helped put Bush and most Euro-pean leaders on the same page.

"My trip to Europe is to seize the moment and invigorate a relationship that is a vital relationship for our own security, as well as ... for long-term peace in the world," Bush said ahead of the five-day visit that was begin-

ning Sunday.

Analysis

On the first overseas trip of his second term, the president also hopes to increase

pressure on Iran and Syria During her well-received tour of Europe and the Middle East this month, Rice said the United States "stands ready to work with Europe on our common agenda, and Europe must stand ready to work with America.

Even so, Bush has a history of alienating leaders on the continent with blunt words and actions that many Europeans associate with a cowboy. Polls show that Bush remains unpopular in Europe.
"There are a lot of people in Europe who

don't really comprehend how this guy got re-elected. There's a basic distrust of him and his administration. But everybody also realizes he's going to be around for the next four years," said Ivo Daalder, an expert on Europe for President Clinton's National Security Council staff.

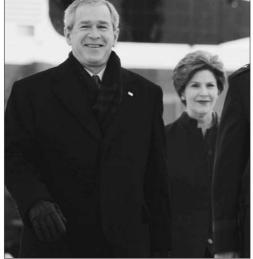
"The real question is whether the president and the Europeans are willing to engage in a serious dialogue or continue to talk past each other." Daalder said.

It could be a big order.

Even apart from Iraq, the United States and Europe have wide differences on trade, Iran and the Kyoto global warming pact. Then there is Europe's aspirations for its own military force and the jurisdiction of an international criminal court Also, Europe is proposing to end a 15-year-old arms embargo against China and is upset by a weak U.S. dollar that is squeezing European exporters.
"Expectations should be kept in check,"

said Julianne Smith of the Center for Stra-tegic and International Studies. "The trip itself is an important symbolic gesture but it will not succeed in eliminating deep strategic differences

The president is stopping in Belgium Germany and Slovakia. He will attend NATO and European Union meetings and hold separate meetings with three of the most vocal critics of the U.S.-led war in Iraq: French President Jacques Chirac German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Russian President Vladimir Putin.



China

President Bush and first lady Laura Bush walk toward Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington on Sunday en route to Brussels, Belgium.

Hundreds protest visit in Brussels

44 We are afraid the

European leaders will

distance themselves

BY ROBERT WIELAARD The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Hundreds of demonstrators protested President Bush's visit Sunday, hours before he was to arrive

in Belgium. Bush will meet with more than two dozen European leaders during a tour aimed at healing the trans-At-lantic rift that opened during his first term, notably over the Iraq

"He is coming to persuade and influ-ence the European

leaders. We are afraid the European leaders will distance themselves from their people," said Pol de Vos, one of about 700 anti-Bush protesters marching peacefully in downtown Brussels

Police have mounted an unprecedented ecurity operation for the visit, deploying 2,500 officers — 1,000 more than usually deployed for the three or four summits that bring European Union leaders to the Bel-

gian capital vear

An alliance of 88 environmental, human rights, peace and other groups have planned protests near the U.S. Embassy for Monday and near the

from their people. Pol de Vos EU headquarters on Tuesday

The Web site of the 'Stop Bush' alliance accused Bush of "crimes against humanity," saying he undermines international law and is an obstacle to the fight against global warming.

A caricature of President Bush was part of a protest against his pending arrival in Belgium on Sunday.

Secret tapes reveal candidate Bush's concerns, strategies

NEW YORK - Private conversations with George Bush secretly taped by an old friend before he was elected president foreshadow some of his political strategies and appear to reveal that he acknowledged using marijuana, The New York Times reported Saturday

The conversations were recorded by Doug Wead, a former aide to George W. Bush's father, beginning in 1998, when Bush was weighing a presidential bid, until just before the Republican National Con-vention in 2000, the Times said in a story posted on its Web site

The tapes show Bush crafting a strategy for navigating the tricky political waters between Christian conservative and

He is heard repeatedly worrying that evangelicals would be angered by a refusal to bash gavs and that secular Americans would be turned off by meetings with evangelical leaders.

On one tape, Bush explains that he told one prominent evangelical that he would not "kick gays, because I'm a sinner. How can I differentiate sin?

In early tapes, Bush dismisses the strength of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., for the nomination and expresses concern about rival Steve Forbes

Bush also criticizes then-Vice President

Al Gore for admitting marijuana use and explains why he would not do the same.

explains why ne would not do the same.
"I wouldn't answer the marijuana questions," he said, according to the Times.
"You know why? Because I don't want some little kid doing what I tried."

The White House did not deny the au-

thenticity of the tapes.
"The governor was having casual conver-

sations with someone he believed was his friend," White House spokesman Trent Duffy said, referring to Bush.

NAACP knocks Bush's Social Security plan

BY ERIN TEXEIRA The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Denouncing President Bush's plan for Social Security reform as one that would disproportionately hurt blacks, NAACP leaders asked to meet with president to discuss the issue, the

NAACP chairman announced Saturday Julian Bond, speaking at a news confer-ence during the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's annual meeting here, also said he expects to name the Baltimore-based organization's

new president by July. "I want someone with the fund-raising ability of Bill Gates, with the oratorical abil-

Group's leaders seek meeting with president

ity of Martin Luther King and the managerial ability of someone who's managed big, big things successfully and done well said Bond, who has repeatedly declined to identify potential candidates.

A search committee has interviewed more than 200 candidates to replace Kweisi Mfume, who was NAACP president for nine years and resigned in December.

Last week, NAACP leaders asked to meet with the president, submitting a letter to the White House that detailed their concerns over education and unemployment, but focused largely on Bush's plan to privatize Social Security.

"This proposal is extremely dangerous to us," said Hilary O. Shelton, the NAACP's Washington bureau chief.

Among married couples, twice as many blacks as whites rely on Social Security for their entire retirement income, and blacks in their 50s are twice as likely to become disabled as whites, he said.

But Bush says blacks would stand to benefit from his privatization plan because, on average, they die earlier than whites and

receive benefits.

That argument has rankled many black

leaders who denounced the president for trying to capitalize on the life-expectancy problem — one they say is rooted in health disparities and urban violence - rather than solve it.

"It's disingenuous for him in the context of this debate to raise those issues, to use those numbers to support an initiative that's flawed on its surface," Shelton said. In other goals for 2005, the association also plans to curb police brutality by set-

ting up watchdog groups, to urge removal of the Confederate flag from South Caroli-na's statehouse and to reduce racial disparities in education and health, Bond said.

Washington lags behind as polls ask Americans for best president

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - When Americans rate their greatest president, they do not agree on who tops the list, but seem to rank a half-dozen chief executives ahead of the nation's first

George Washington tied for sixth place in one re-

George Washington tied for sixth piace in one re-cent poll and rated seventh in another.

"Let's face it, 'First in war, first in peace, and sev-enth in the hearts of his countrymen,' doesn't sound very impressive," said Ted Widmer, a professor of history at Washington College in Chestertown, Md. Shortly after Washington's death in 1799, Congress

adopted the description Henry Lee used in his eulogy



President Abraham Lincoln has been labeled the nation's greatest president by the American people, according to a recent poll.

of his fellow Virginian: "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his country-

But in a poll commissioned by Washington College for President's Day, President's Day, Americans rated Abraham Lincoln as the greatest president. A CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll put Ronald Reagan on top.

Asked who was the greatest presi-dent, 20 percent of those polled chose Lincoln. Reagan was picked by 15 percent. Franklin D. Roosevelt by 12 percent, John F. Kennedy by 11 per-cent, Bill Clinton

by 10 percent and George W. Bush

by 8 percent. Washington was picked by 6 percent. In the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, Reagan had 20 percent, followed by Clinton and Lincoln in the mid-teens and then Roosevelt and Kennedy at 12 per-

The poll done for the college looked at how much the public knows about Washington and found that 46 percent knew that Washington led the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Two-thirds knew his wife's name, Martha, and that

he lived at Mount Vernon, his estate on the banks of

the Potomac River in Virginia. "You learn about George Washington in elementary school," said Charles Quigley, executive director of the Center for Civic Education. "The push toward ac-countability and testing in math and reading has tended to diminish greatly the amount of time spent on social studies

A lifetime of good work cut short

Growing up in Ohio, slain nun learned compassion, love for the environment

> BY JAMES HANNAH The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio - Growing up during the post-Depression years with nine brothers and sisters, Dorothy Stang learned early about compassion. She and her siblings were allowed 1 inch of water in the bathtub to wash and another to rinse, but at the same time their parents opened their house to the homeless and cared for anyone

Those lessons compelled Stang to leave high school for a convent after her junior year, leading to 39 years of missionary work in Brazil, where she tried to help the poor and prevent loggers, ranchers and land speculators from destroying the Amazon jungle.

At age 73, the nun who rode a motorcycle, wore hand-painted T-shirts and craved chunky peanut butter was shot six times at close range on Feb. 12. Authorities said Saturday that a sus-

pect in the killing surrendered to police. Amair Freiioli da Cunha, known as Tato, was taken into custody after turning himself in to police in Altamira, a city about 82 miles from where Stang was shot, police said.

Two purported gunmen and a rancher accused of ordering the slaying remained on the lose, police investigator Ana Indira Vaz said. Arrest warrants for Cunha and the three other suspects had been issued Monday.

Cunha allegedly was the intermediary who hired the gunmen on behalf of rancher Vitamiro Goncalves Moura, known as Bida, police said. Authorities claim Moura ordered the killing. Thousands of mourners held an

all-night vigil and filed past Stang's coffin in the jungle town of Anapu. On Thursday, Brazil's president ordered the creation of a huge environmental protection area in the lawless region.

Stang, a naturalized Brazilian, had helped poor residents grow vegetables plant trees, set up a flour mill and build a small dam for electricity.

Letters to her family reflected her growing concern for the region includ-

ing Anapu, home of 7,000 people. We're in the midst of serious land problems, as the rich just can't let the needy also have something to earn their daily bread," she said in a 2002 let-

Stang, known as "Dot" by her family, grew up on the outskirts of Dayton, the fifth of 10 children. There was a barn.



Barbara Richardson becomes emotional Wednesday as she talks about her sister Dorothy Stang during a memorial service at Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton, Ohio. Stang was shot to death in the town of Anapu, Brazil, while doing missionary work. Richardson said Stang's compassion sprang from her family's willingness during her childhood to open their home to strangers.

chickens, rabbits, a river and a back vard where Stang often hit home runs over the clothesline. Her father, Henry, a chemical engi-

neer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, believed in wasting nothing. Tire treads were used to resole shoes. Apple and potato peels were saved for

compost. That frugality lead to her environmentalism,

and her compassion sprang from the family's openness to strangers, said one of Stang's vounger sisters. Barbara Richard-

"We took in everybody," said Richardson, of Dayton. "They'd stay a week, two weeks, until they got a job at one of the factories

In high school, Stang worked for the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor, making dressings and bandages. That experience prompted her to leave Julienne High School and enter a Cincinnati convent

Two of her brothers became priests. She taught at a Catholic middle school in Chicago and was a missionary in Arizona, helping American Indians and migrant workers.

From Brazil, Stang sent relatives phothat showed her wearing wire-rimmed glasses and a wooden crucifix while riding a burro or her

mud-caked, off-road motorcycle. "She didn't want anybody to think she dressed better, had more, or did different than the people," Richardson

"She was a little old nun," she said. "Who ever thought anybody would kill

Suspect's release angers Denver residents

Man allegedly sexually abused five after admitting to earlier attack



Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman, left, talks to about 250 people at Saturday's rally outside a pet-supply store in Denver where a women working alone was raped Feb. 11. The suspect in the assault, Brent J. Brents, is a convicted rapist who is suspected in a series of violent sexual assaults committed after he allegedly confessed to an earlier attack but was released.

DENVER — As a serial rape suspect re-turned to Denver in handcuffs, about 250 people gathered outside a store owned by one of victims and expressed anger that the man had been allowed to go free after allegedly confessing to another crime

Brent J. Brents is a suspect in five sexual assaults on women and girls earlier this month in Denver — crimes committed after police said he confessed to an earlier attack but was released.

He was arrested late Friday in western Colorado while driving a car believed to have been taken from a woman whom he allegedly brutally beat. He was returned to Denyer Saturday and held in lieu of \$25 million bail.

At the rally Saturday outside a pet shop, residents shouted and shook noisemakers when a friend of the victim asked how many were angry and baffled that Brents had been freed after previous allegations against him. "Acts of violence against women and children cannot be tolerated," the owner's fiancé

told the crowd. Brents, 35, was accused late last year of inappropriately touching a former girlfriend's 8-year-old son but never arrested, despite allegedly telling officers the boy was telling the

Aurora Police Chief Ricky Bennett has said Brents was allowed to leave because additional investigation was needed.

months earlier after being sent to a state hos pital for about three years and then to prison for 14 years for raping a young boy and a girl.

He was linked by DNA evidence to the string of rapes in Denver, police said, and is also a suspect in an October sexual assault.

He was arrested Friday after allegedly beating a woman and stealing her car and cell phone. The victim of Friday's attack was in serious but stable condition at a Denver hospital, police said.

Police tracked calls made from the stolen phone and arrested Brents about 150 miles west of Denver. He was with a woman whom police described as a victim, but they did not immediately disclose whether she had been kidnapped.

The string of rapes in Denver began Feb 11 with the rape of the 44-year-old pet shop owner and another woman blocks away. Brents is also a suspect in the sexual assaults on two 11-year-old sisters and their 67-yearold grandmother, according to an arrest war-

Police encouraged other possible victims to come forward.

"We have significant reason to believe that there are many, many additional victims, said Dave Fisher, the police department's

ociated Press writers Erin Gartner and Don Mitchell contributed to this story.

chief of investigations.

People challenge city on condemnation rights

Susette Kelo, who lives in this

several property owners in the

area refusing to sell or leave their

properties to make way for addi-

tional development.

By MATT APUZZO

The Associated Press NEW LONDON Conn - Fifteen houses are all that remain of Fort Trumbull, a once vibrant immigrant neighborhood flattened into expanses of rutted grass and

gravel stand in defiance of New London's to pave the way for a riverfront hotel and convention center. offices and upscale condomini-

Refusing the city's efforts to get them to leave, seven families are going before the U.S Supreme Court on Tuesday, ar-guing that the city has no right of New London Conn., is one of to take their private property solely for economic development. The rebellious homeown

ers include an elderly Italian immigrant, a mechanic and a former deli owner.

"It's a case of the rich eating the poor," said Matthew Dery, who lives in one of four houses on a compound his family has owned since 1901. "Sometimes the poor are difficult to digest." Leading the charge is Susette

Kelo, a 47-year-old nurse who bought her home in 1997.

"They have over 90 acres now." Kelo said. "It's more than enough room to build on. We never said they can't build. We just said 'We want to stay.

But Kelo's apricot-colored house, with a decorative outhouse

in the yard and wind chimes made of silverware, doesn't fit in the city's development plans.

"They just would not be compatible with all the other uses," said Edward O'Connell, an attorney rep resenting the New London Development Corp.,

quasi-public agency behind the redevelophouse in the Fort Trumbull section ment effort.

building high ways or public offices, laying railroad tracks or eliminating

blight, govern-ments have long relied on eminent domain laws to allow them to take private property.

The Fifth Amendment allows governments to take private property for "public use.

The Supreme Court has given governments broad power to take private property through eminent domain, provided the owner is given "just compensation."

Little lions, big task



SAN EPANCISCO CHRONICI E/AI

Nikko Jow. 7. left, and Ray Gamboa.12, with the San Francisco Police Department Lion Dancers, prepare to lead the Chinese New Year's parade up Market Street to Chinatown in San Francisco on Saturday.

Boy found guilty in double slaying

MARIETTA, Ohio - A 12-year-old boy was convicted Saturday in the shotgun slayings of his aunt and grandmother. He was expected to be imprisoned until age 21

Brvan Christopher Sturm told investigators he shot his grandmother at her southeast Ohio home on Nov. 22 because she constantly criticized him, according to an affidavit filed by the Washington County sheriff's office.

He said his aunt was accidentally shot in the head

when she grabbed the gun.

Officer killed in friendly fire

CHICAGO - An off-duty correctional officer shot and killed a friend and co-worker Saturday whom he mistakenly believed was trying to carjack a vehicle being driven by his wife, police said.

Arlin McClendon, 36, was killed while trying to pull a joke on a longtime friend in an area where two dozen cariackings have occurred in less than a year. authorities said

From wire reports

FACES



Will Smith, left, and Kevin James appear in a scene from the movie "Hitch," directed by Andy Tennant. When Smith suggested to his golf buddy James that they should work together, the "King of Queens" star figured it was one of those when pigs-fly situations.

James steals limelig

Actor improvises moves in new flick

By CHRIS HEWITT Knight Ridder Newspapers

sher has crunking. Michael Jackson has the moonwalk and Kevin James has the Q-Tip. James is in "Hitch," which is

about a romance coach for the dateless played by Will Smith.

But, for about five minutes, "Hitch" is hiacked by the James Klutzatronic Dance Machine

His character demonstrates his pathetic dance moves for Smith, including an earfingering gesture called the Q-Tip and a hand-rubbing motion called Starting the

All are rejected.

"You just look at me, and you know I can throw it down, right? Me and getting the la dies — you can see how smooth I am," jokes James, star of TV's "The King of Queens," calling from a New York hotel.

"Those are pretty much my own moves which is pretty sad. That was my calling card with the ladies, back in the day. That was what I had to work with — that outof-control thing, sort of like onions falling out of a bag."

Smith and James improvised the dance scene (they did lots of stuff that's not in the movie but could be on the DVD), something James says many stars wouldn't go for

"Some actors would see another supporting actor getting laughs and would shut it down immediately," says James, declining to name names. "But Will encouraged it." The two were friends first, after a "Oneens" writer introduced them and they

played golf. Smith said they should work together: James figured it was one of those

when-pigs-fly situations. But Smith called and James said ves to a tiny role that, over the course of a movie's

worth of improvised scenes, ended up being not-so-tiny. James was thrilled because desnite six

vears on a hit sitcom, the movie of-

fers were not exactly pouring in. They weren't exactly even trickling

"It's hard to knock down doors, even if you've been on a TV show for a

while," says James. "It's such a difficult transition to make, as you can tell from

all the TV actors who tried and didn't make it in movies." When James heard from Smith, he had just lost the lead in the next film from Mike Judge, who wrote and directed "Office

Space At the time, he was bummed not to get the gig. Now, he's thrilled he wasn't chosen because it would have prevented him from

doing "Hitch." Speaking about his collaboration with Smith. James uses the playing-againstsomeone-who's-better-than-you-makes-youbetter sports metaphor.

The difference is, when he says working with Smith is the comedy equivalent of playing golf with Tiger Woods, James isn't speaking metaphorically He actually has played golf with Tiger Woods, and tips from Woods actually did

44 It's good to show you

have faults and you

look like an idiot some

of the time, because we

all do.

Kevin James

make him better. Same goes for Smith. who helped him figure out the whole movie With "Hitch" heading into theaters, 'King of Queens" about to wrap shooting

for the season and a couple of movies already completed (including a comedy that pairs him with mentor Ray Romano), James is looking at what's next. He's not sure what it'll be, but

it's a good bet it will find him playing a character unlike the ones in "Queens" and "Hitch." both of whom are lovable, self-deprecating klutzes.

"Rob Burnett, the producer of 'Letterman, told me you watch a movie for two reasons. Either it's like a James Bond movie, where you see

him do things you'll never do, or it's a character who's a lot like you, so you relate to him," says James.

"That's more what I've been doing, but, believe me, my agents and everybody are going, 'We need to go in a different direction. Let's do something where Kevin is not the fat guy, tripping over his suitcase.

Even if James stays vertical for the entire film, don't expect him to be too suave.

"The way I look at it is when you expose yourself to America and beyond, like I do on 'King of Queens,' where the humiliating stuff is often part of what's funny or endearing about the character, I have no problem with that," says James. "It's good to show you have faults and you look like an idiot some of the time, because we all do."

Rock OK with Oscar's delay

First-time Oscar host Chris Rock, a comedian known for his frequent use of expletives, says the five-second decency delay on the ABC show's Feb. 27 telecast will be a welcome "safety net."

"I've been on TV and been funny not cursing," Rock says in an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes" newsmagazine. "As far as content is

concerned, I will talk about the movies. I'm not really worried about it. I'm sure ABC is more worried about it than me." Gil Cates, the producer of the Oscar show, has expressed

confidence in Rock, who suggested in a re-Entertainment Weekly magazine inthat no

cent

with it."



terview straight black men watch the telecast. "[A time delay is] a safety net. You know, you're a trapeze artist ... you welcome the net," Rock says.

Rock also says that when he arrives on Oscar night, he may be traveling "small," without an entourage. The 39-year-old actor-comedian says that "with a posse, you're not letting the real world in. And if you don't let the real world in, you're not

going to be funny."

He added: "Donald Trump rolls pretty small, you know.

Third son for Beckhams

David Beckham's wife Victoria - formerly known as "Posh Spice" — gave birth Sunday in Madrid, Spain, to the couple's third son.

"We've got a baby boy, his name is Cruz, that's C-r-u-z. He's beautiful and he's in there with his brothers," Beckham said. Asked about the name — Spanish for the word 'cross', Beckham replied, "It's just a name we like. We found it hard this time

but we found a name we liked and stuck Beckham said the couple had been advised to go to the hospital Saturday night and that the baby was delivered a week early.

Life inside Windsor Castle

Britain's royal family has given a TV crew unprecedented access to Windsor Castle for a documentary series about life in the royal household.

Buckingham Palace said Thursday that a team from production company RDF had been filming at the castle, west of London, for a year. The three-part series, tentative-ly titled, "Windsor," and due to be broad-cast by the British Broadcasting Corp. next fall, includes an interview with Prince Philip and several scenes featuring Queen Elizabeth II.

A palace spokeswoman said Philip would speak about his role as a ranger for the castle's extensive grounds and parks.

Spears: Photos invade privacy

Britney Spears says the veil has been lifted on her honeymoon, and she's not happy Photos of Spears and her new husband Kevin Federline, are on the cover of Us Weekly magazine under the headline: "Britney's Private Album!" Other pictures of the couple's October honeymoon in the Fiji islands are displayed on five pages inside the magazine, on newsstands Friday.

"Kevin and I chose a resort location where we were promised absolute privacy and seclusion," the 23-year-old pop star

"Other magazines, including Star, contacted us when presented with these photographs and refused to publish them," said

Spears.

"Kevin and I thank those other magazines for respecting our rights of privacy. Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Backing Boone road

W PIREVILLE—A Kentucky congressman whose name took the place of Daniel Boone's on a prominent mountain highway is endorsing a proposal to rename another highway after the famous frontiersman.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers said he wants U.S. 25E to be renamed the Daniel Boone Wil-

derness Road, a move that would appease Boone's descendants, who were offended when state officials renamed the Daniel Boone Parkway for Rogers.

"That was done without my knowledge," Rogers said. "It was a surprise to me. But they have named various parkways throughout the state for people in public life ... and I was honored."

Alleged rapist sniffed out

QUINCY — A restaurant manager accused of raping an employee at knifepoint was arrested after the woman told police she knew her masked attacker was her boss because of his bad breath. Tuen "Dickie" Lee, 36, of Quin-

Tuen "Dickie" Lee, 36, of Quincy, pleaded innocent in district court to charges including three counts of aggravated rape. He was ordered held on \$100.000 bail.

Lee was arrested eight days after the Feb. 3 incident, based on DNA evidence that tied him to the crime scene, police said.

Police said they focused on Lee when the victim told them she recognized the attacker from his breath odor.

Fake passports seized

OH CINCINNATI — Fake passports created by an Austrian artist for a contemporary museum exhibit were confiscated at an airport after a customs agent thought they might be harmful if imported, government and museum officials said.

"I think it says a lot about the condition of our world today, that everyone is understandably on the alert," said Contemporary Arts Center director Linda Shearer.

The items were supposed to be included in the museum's exhibit titled "State of Sabotage," which focuses on government or corporate power over the individual, Shearer said.

Ex-lawmen charged

HOUSTON — Two former jailers and a man who once worked for the constable's office have been accused of robbing and threatening to arrest prospective customers of women posing as prostitutes.

The suspects have been charged with engaging in organized criminal activity in a conspiracy to commit robbery.

Murphy L. Randall, 36, and

Murphy L. Randall, 36, and Undre Skinner, 40, worked as jailers at sheriff's headquarters in Richmond. Yusef West, 28, once worked for the Harris County Precinct 6 Constable's office.

Harris County Assistant District Attorney Joe Owmby said the scheme centered on a Houston apartment complex where Randall and Skinner worked second jobs as security guards. He said the scheme went on from June to about November.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

"In most of the cases, they took whatever cash these guys had and said they weren't going to take them to jail this time," Owmby said

Stabbing sentence

NEW YORK — A man trained in a Filipino knife-fighting technique was sentenced to 17 years in prison for fatally stabbing a nightclub bouncer who tried to enforce the city's indoor smoking ban.

Isaias Umali — who was convicted in November of first-degree manslaughter in the April 2003 death of Dana "Shazam" Blae had faced up to 25 years in prison. State Supreme Court Justice Bonnie Wittner said the 6-inch serted knife Umali used on Blake, 32, was "the deadliest knife I've verv seen in a courtroom. There can be no other purpose but to injure or kill somebody."

Illegal driving legalities

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Senate voted to take driver's licenses away from people who cannot prove they are legal U.S. residents and issue them a driving "privilege" card instead.

Lawmakers voted 18-8 to approve the measure, which goes next to the House. Gov. Jon Hunts-



Winter shield

Erma Hernandez walks across Fayette Street in downtown Syracuse, N.Y., shielding her son, Jocson Ramos, 3, from the snow with an umbrella man said that he would support it.
Senators said they were aled sel by an investigation that found 58,000 undocumented workers had Utah drivers licenses and that some non-citizens were able to use the licenses to register to vote and cast ballots at the polls.

"It's scary, being taken advantage of," Republican state Sen. Gregory Bell said. "Once they get a Utah driver's license, it's a platform for everything else."

Gang shooting law waits

VA RICHMOND — Legislation that would subject street gang members to the death penalty for carrying out gang-ordered shootings likely will await next year's session after a Senate panel deferred action.

The bill, intended to deter savage, deadly attacks of gangs such as MS-13 proliferating in Virginia, was referred to the state Crime Commission for study on a unanimous Courts of Justice Committee voice vote.

Del. David Albo said his bill essentially would treat a killing ordered by a gang chieftain as murder-for-hire, making the killer and the person who ordered it eligible for execution.

Presently, gang-directed killings are not subject to capital punishment.

Lobster disease spreads

NARRAGANSETT — More lobsters are contracting shell disease, and the problem has spread from southern New England waters all the way to Maine, scientists said at a symposium analyzing a phenomenon that has mysteriously afflicted the industry in recent years.

Shell disease now affects 30 percent of lobsters in coastal areas of southern New England and Long Island Sound, according to researchers. It's still unclear what's causing the disease, researchers said, and what's causing it to

spread.

The disease does not taint the lobsters' meat, but makes shells so unsightly that they are too unappetizing to serve whole. It can weaken lobsters so much that they prematurely die, though experts don't have any concrete figures.

Prank 911 calls

RI ST. LOUIS — A teenager has been accused of using a stolen cell phone to swamp dispatchers with hundreds of bogus 911 calls over a matter of weeks, at times talking of killing some of the responding officers he could see

responding officers he could see.
The 15-year-old boy sometimes was such a nuisance he called in new emergencies at the same address where officers already were standing, St. Louis County Police spokesman Mason Keller said.

Such was the case when the young culprit was tracked down only after dispatchers fielded 25 bogus calls within 75 minutes to the same area where the officer already had arrived. Keller said.

The boy has been referred to St. Louis County Family Court, where information on possible charges was not immediately available. He was not identified because he is charged as a juvenile.



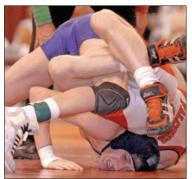
Charitable kisses Steven Walker, principal of Dover Elementary School in Pennsylvania, kisses a pig to fulfill his promise to the students for reaching their fund-railing goal for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The children raised more than \$4,000 in their "Giving from the Heart" campaign.



Tubular fun Zach Uttley, 5, climbs upward through a slipper-slide tunnel while playing in Leffler Rotary



TeamWork Abigail Martinez, 10, left, holds the water fountain faucet as Vicky Becerra, 8, center, holds up her sister, Connie Bercerra, 5, at the Mesilla Plaza in Mesilla, N.M.



Wrestling pretzel Cody Martin of Forbush High School in Fast Bend ties up Brett Williams, bottom, of North Henderson High School in Hendersonville during their 130-pound match at the Class 1A-2A North Carolina High School Athletic Association weetsling championships in Winston-Salem, N.C.



Vintage beauty
Rick Ziel, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
shines up a B-17 bomber at the
Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.



Taking a break Jesse Corwin, 16, pauses while teaching a swimming class at a city pool in Great Falls, Mont.

Body parts found

NY NEW YORK — The human remains found by a transit worker in a Brooklyn subway tunnel belonged to a 19-year-old man, police said.

The body parts — two legs severed just below the torso — had been stuffed in a plastic bag, said police spokesman Detective Eric Crisafi.

The remains belonged to Rashawn Brazell of Brooklyn, Crisafi said.

Crisafi said.

The investigation is ongoing,
Crisafi said.

Teacher arrested

ORLANDO — A high school chemistry teacher was arrested after students claimed he taught his class how to make a bomb, authorities said.

David Pieski used an overhead piector in class to give instructions in making explosives to students at Freedom High School, including advising them to use an electric detonator to stay clear from the blast, an Orange County sheriff's arrest report said.

In Pieski's classroom in Orlando, authorities found a book labeled "Demo," which includes the chemical breakdown for a powerful explosive, the arrest report said.

Pieski was charged with possessing or discharging a destructive device and culpable negligence. Pieski, who was booked into the Orange County Jail and released on \$1.000 bail. declined to comment.

Listerine DUI

ADRIAN — A woman who pleaded guilty to driving while drunk on three glasses of Listerine was sentenced to two years of probation.

Officials suspected Carol Ries,

50, was intoxicated after she rear-ended another vehicle at a red light in January. Police found a bottle of the mouthwash in her car.

She passed one breath test, but failed another that used different equipment. Her blood alcohol level was 30 percent, more than three times the legal limit.

According to Listerine manufacturer Pfizer Inc.'s Web site, original formula Listerine contains 26.9 percent alcohol, more than four times that of many malt liquors, while other varieties contain 21.6 percent alcohol.

Man suspected of abuse

MIDLAND — A Midland man faces child endangerment charges on accusations that he chained a 4-year-old boy by the neck and held a knife to his older brother's neck, authorities said.

Thomas Mitchell Lynskey, 31, is accused of harming his girlfriend's two sons in November, Midland County sheriff's investigator Rick Rowland said.

Lynskey surrendered to authorities after learning of an arrest warrant and was released on \$10,000 bond the same day.

Elk to roam free

CA LOS BANOS — Dozens of tule elk will be sent to areas where they can roam freely, from the northern Coast Ranges to the southern Sierra Nevada, in an attempt to restore a native California species that has rebounded from

the brink of extinction.

"We were down to an Adam and an Eve, for all we know," said Jon Fischer, head of the elk capture project for the California Department of Fish and Game. "This has been a real success story."

Tule elk exist only in California, where they once roamed the San Joaquin Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

Focus on asbestos

LIBBY — They're getting ready for the Asbestos Health Fair in this old mining town.

Posters promise "Door Prizes!!" and "Blood draw to participate in ongoing research!" Companies that sell home oxygen supplies will send reps. Doctors and researchers will be here.

There will be consultants to help asbestosis victims apply for public aid. And there will be advice on finding help with the housework when the disease becomes too much.

To visitors to the town of some 8,000 people, it all must seem surreal. To the locals, this has, sadly, become part of life in Libby.

Asbestos released into the air from the now-closed W.R. Grace and Co. vermiculite mine just down the road is blamed by some health authorities for killing some 200 people and sickening one of every eight residents.

A federal grand jury indicted the company and seven executives, accusing them of conspiring for decades to hide the danger. Grace has denied any criminal wrongdoing and said it looks forward to "set-

ing and said roots of ward to setting the record straight" in court.

For many in town, the indictments mean those responsible will finally be held accountable.

Recruiting tennis fans

AZ SCOTTSDALE — NHL fans left on the sideboards can get the jump on a new game: tennis.

Hockey fans who show up for the first two days of the ATP Tour event wearing Phoenix Coyotes hockey jerseys will be given free tickets for the tennis tournament.

The Tennis Channel announced its offer to hockey fans: The first 500 people wearing a Coyotes jersey to the day or night sessions at the tournament can claim a free ticket at the will-call window.

"With their new free time, hockey fans can come see the spectacular athleticism, finesse and artistry happening right now in big-time tennis," Bellamy said in a statement.

Court spares dog's life

NE LINCOLN — The state Supreme Court granted clemency to a dog sentenced to death for fighting with a neighbor's pet.

The high court ruled that Murphy, an Alaskan malamute-shepherd mix belonging to Doug and Lorele Dittoe, should not be killed for causing "relatively minor injury" to the other dog after slipping out of the couple's fenced-in yard in 2001.

Murphy had been deemed dangerous by the county sheriff, and a judge ordered her destroyed. Now, the Dittoes are planning a

party for Murphy.

"She might just get a steak,"
Lorele Dittoe said.

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American-style meals suit GIs

I never cease to be amazed by the Bush bashers and critics who always try to dis credit the hard work and services provided by my employer, KBR ("KBR needs some healthy competition," column, G. Jefferson Price III. Feb. 11).

Though I can't speak officially about figures and cost. I do know that here in Kuwait and also in Iraq KBR hires dozens of subcon tractors to provide goods and services to the military Locals are hired for those positions and are paid a wage commensurate with that area

As for the cuisine, our dining facilities in Kuwait and also in Iraq offer nutritious, hot meals. Apparently, G. Jefferson Price III is not in touch with the American soldiers' palate when he suggests that Middle Eastern foods be served in our dining facilities because people who eat the same foods get along better. I guess we could then hold hands with the terrorists and all sing "We Are The World

Soldiers want foods they're familiar with. American-style foods cooked American-style. I have been at this camp for a year and not once have I heard an American soldier say: "I sure would enjoy a nice mezze or olives stuffed with grane leaves

And Price was correct in saving a security concern would be the poisoning of American troops and a food taster would need to be hired. I know just the person for that position: G. Jefferson Price III

> Rob Huffman Camp Spearhead, Kuwait

They deserve Purple Hearts

As I read the stories about our heroes (and I do mean real heroes, being a Viet-

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nam combat veteran myself), I am ap palled at what our government is doing by issuing the Purple Heart and then re voking it ("Shamed by an honor," front-page article, Feb. 9).

Everyone reads regulations differently and gives them meanings that suit them best. When a regulation is not specific enough or not clearly stated in a way that everyone reading it gets the same picture, it needs to be rewritten.

Combat is combat and, if these soldiers were not there, it couldn't happen. Anyone who is injured in a combat situation should be eligible for this medal.

I can tell you from experience that in Vietnam, a chopper was flying to the de-militarized zone on a mission when there was engine trouble and had to gyro ro tate to land. It was a hard landing and all

aboard were either killed or injured. There were Purple Hearts for all from the commanding general.

In Cu Chi, I was with the 25th Infantry Division where some nitwit exploded a claymore mine and lost an arm. He got the Purple Heart and was retired with

Not one person I know wanted these medals back. These people were there trying to fight a war and were injured or killed because of their mission there. Come on and give these guys a break.

disability.

They deserve the medal and deserve to wear it proudly. John Mize

Langenzenn, Germany

Heidelberg friends a comfort

My family and I would like to thank all of the people in the community who have been so supportive to us during our time of loss. The care and concern shown to my family has truly been above and beyond any expectations we could imagine.

I am sorry I cannot thank every person personally who has been so helpful in my time of grief. Please know that from the bottom of my heart I am thankful to every one

I would like to thank the teachers at the Heidelberg schools who have been so helpful, the G2 and CACI Inc. (Charles Dawson, Jim Lynn and Val Ruffo) for their support to my family

I would like to give a special thanks to Volker Mampel, Cary Costa, Lt. Col. John Cappel and his wife, Kim, Col. David Hale, Thomas Greco and Sharron Powell for contributing their time to my husband's service. You helped make a sad time truly beautiful. God bless all of you.

Jovce Flannery Heidelberg, Germany

Sunday night blues works last nerve

By Dale McFeatters Scripps Howard

WASHINGTON v dad used to suffer from the Sunday night blues. It was not like he was clinically de-pressed, but he wasn't happy with it being Sunday night. He didn't care much for Sunday afternoons either.

I thought this Sunday p.m. moodiness might be some ancestral Scots. Scots-Irish sort of thing, and dad couldn't indulge in the traditional Scots mood brightener of heading to the next glen and burning down a neighboring clan's castle.

My grandmother said it was because in school he habitually procrastinated about

doing his homework until Sunday night. "He'd have felt much better if he had done his schoolwork Friday evening or got up early Saturday morning and done it then, she would say. Yeah, right, Grandma. Like that happens in the real world. I periodically suffer from Sunday night

blues and having your homework do doesn't change the fact that it's still Sunday night. I say "periodically" because TV has done pioneering work in combating the malady by broadcasting three consecutive pro football games on Sundays. The first one starts with the first onset of symptoms about 1 p.m. and the last game ends at bedtime when the blues don't matter anymore.

My dad had it worse than me because he grew up in a time when the government and social custom colluded to make Sunday as boring as possible. Everything was closed, and children were expected to sit around in their Sunday dress clothes and make as little noise as possible. That would make anybody morose

Still, I was pleased to learn recently that I wasn't some isolated head case who gets money on Sunday afternoon. The sniper-eyed trend watchers at The Wall Street Journal have zeroed in on the Sunday blues as a legitimate, if not at all serious, affliction in the world of cubicle culture.

Writer Jared Sandberg found a studio-art

is Thursday "because then he can anticipate the weekend before the clock has started running on it. Come to think of it, he says, his Sunday nights really begin on Saturday. when he realizes the weekend is half over and the workweek is looming."

That's a little extreme but Sandberg found something I've noticed: The Sunday blues affect people who like school or like their jobs and have no problem with getting up and going to work. If you hate your job

and your co-workers, that's something else.

The Sunday blues victims coped in various ways - TV, food, reading, rituals such as laving out clothes and, in one case, as I read it, willfully deluding oneself as to what day it is. Once, when my dad was in his 80s and battling the inevitable infirmities, I asked him if he still got the Sunday night

blues. He said, no, that he could no longer keep track of what day of the week it was and for all he knew every day was Tuesday. For the rest of us, there's only one sure cure for the Sunday night blues: Monday. It

works every time.

By GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury Flashbacks







OPINION

States smart to cover all bases with BRAC

olitics aren't supposed to factor into the equation used to determine whether a military base should re-main open or be closed in the coming round of reductions and realignments.



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that the 2005 base realignment and closure BRAC process

should be the means by which we reconfigure our current infrastructure into one in which operational capacity maximizes both warfighting capability and efficien-

Translation: If the facility adequately and effectively supports the military of the 21st century, it stays.

"America simply cannot do military trans-formation without BRAC," said Kenneth Beeks, vice president of policy for Business Executives for National Security. "The Department of Defense is not a jobs program. It is not the role of the Defense Department to provide employment for Americans: it is to protect America so we can find other

Yet elected officials from unpaid city mayors to high-profile governors and U.S. sena tors are investing political capital and lots of money into efforts to keep their local bases from ending up in the crosshairs of the BRAC Commission specifically because they are jobs programs in their communi-

At least four lists are circulating on the In ternet naming bases that could be targeted for closure under the BRAC process in 2005, the first time the Pentagon has undergone this exercise in a decade

Theoretically, every one of those Internet lists is accurate because every military facility in the country is supposed to be up for re-

The 2005 process aims to eliminate nearly 25 percent of the military's infrastructure. The 2005 closures are expected to exceed all the reductions in the four previous rounds of consolidation combined.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2002, which authorized this generation of closures, requires the Pentagon to "consider all military installations within the United States equally without regard to whether the installation has been previously considered for closure or realignment by the depart-

"Understandably, many of our local community partners will have great concerns over BRAC 2005," wrote then-Secretary of the Army Thomas White in a December 2002 letter to his top brass. "We must avoid creating an expectation in the local communities that any action or group of actions would preclude an installation from being

considered for realignment." Secretary of the Navy Gordon England is sued a similar caution a month earlier in a letter to his command, calling for "every Navy and Marine Corps installation [to] be ited equally and fairly."

Yet here we are, two years later, and BRAC has become a full-employment act for high-priced lobbyists and retired gener als who profess to be able to influence a process that, according to Christopher Hellman, military policy analyst for the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, was "specifically designed to insulate decision makers from lobbyists."

How much money are we talking about? ■ The state of Florida is paying \$50,000 a month for a rent-an-admiral named Robert Natter and a lobbying firm to spearhead the Sunshine State's BRAC efforts, reports the Jacksonville Business Journal.

■ California Gov. Arnold Schwarzeneg-ger has earmarked \$500,000 to advise communities on how to tell the Pentagon why it should keep all 62 of the Golden State's

■ Separately, the Beale Regional Alliance Committee in Yuba County, Calif., has raised more than \$100,000 to hire lobbyists to fight for Beale Air Force Base, which houses a U-2 intelligence squadron

■ Texas voters approved a \$250 million bond program in 2003 to help the Lone Star State retain its military installations.

Gov. Rick Perry's Web site reports that Texas gets a \$33.8 billion direct impact from its 18 military bases and other defense-related spending. In addition, the state benefits from a \$77.4 billion indirect impact — from the extra civilian jobs and spending generated by the military presence in Texas commu-

San Antonio business leaders have raised \$750,000 for a push to keep their local bases open, reports the San Antonio Ex-press-News. San Antonio has reason to perspire: The Army's Fort Sam Houston and Brooks Air Force Base both are on the Inter-

net lists of likely closure candidates. To compound the sweat factor, Brooks, small nonflying research base, was on the 1995 BRAC list but dodged the shutters when nearby Kelly Air Logistics Center was closed instead

But the communities' money may be ill

spent.
"It's a waste of money," said Jack Spencer, senior policy analyst for Defense and National Security in the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

"A community would be far better off in spending that money to hire someone to help develop a plan in case the base is closed."

Business Executives for National Security's Beeks, a former naval officer, agrees. "It's money that could be better spent try-ing to prepare for life after BRAC," Beeks

said. "But they are hellbent on doing this, mostly for political reasons. They can't be seen not to. Politically they have to make a run at trying to save the base if they want to continue as mayor or city manager or whatever the position may be

Alas, all decisions that germinate inside the Beltway are fertilized by politics, the Miracle-Gro of government. If one elected official is going to spread a little enrichment on the process, the other can't be expected to just stand by and watch.

That may explain Perry's surprise lobby-ing foray to the Pentagon in December. Without notifying or inviting Texas congressional lawmakers to join him, Perry dropped in on top defense officials Dec. 4 to boost the state's chances in the coming round of base

At minimum one can give Perry props for doing his own talking and not hiring outside lobbyists to make his pitch. Perhaps it's more accurate to commend Perry for firing the outside lobbyist that once was hired to promote Texas interests on Capitol Hill.

That lobbyist was former House Majority Leader Dick Armey — oddly enough. the author of the base closing process

2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission deadlines

■ March 15: The final list of nine commission members submitted by the president and congressional leaders goes to the Senate for consideration and confirmation. Three members are nominated by the president, two each are suggested by the speaker of the House and the Senate majority leader, with one each from the House and Sen-

■ May 16: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will submit to the BRAC Commission a list of bases that the department has selected for closure or realignment.

■ By Sept. 8: The BRAC Commission reports to the president on its recommenda-

■ By Sept. 23: The president approves or disapproves the list. The president cannot

unilaterally make changes to the BRAC Commission's list. ■ If President Bush approves the list, the decision takes effect 45 legislative days after it is submitted to Congress. To change the list, each chamber must adopt and the

president must sign a joint resolution of disapproval.

If Bush disapproves of the list, the BRAC Commission has until Oct. 20 to submit

a revision. The president then would have until Nov. 7 to approve the list. ■ If Bush sends a second list to Congress, the same rules apply: The recommendations become law 45 days after the president sends the list to Congress unless both chambers pass and Bush signs a resolution of disapproval.

when he was still in Congress.

Armey's firm, Piper Rudnick LLP, had a \$15,000-a-month contract with the state until Perry found out it also had a \$50,000-a-month contract to represent Florida on base closing issues.

"Remember what these lobbyists are going to do," Spencer said. "They come around to communities and say, 'Your base is going to be closed unless you pay me to represent you.' That will or won't happen re-gardless of what the lobbyist does. Of course, if it's not closed, the lobbyist will take full credit for it.

"Hopefully, any particular base will be

closed or remain open on its own merit," he said. "The commission will look at it purely from a national security perspective, on what the base brings to the nation's securi-

Jobs, not national security, were on Texas wmakers' minds when they introduced a bill this month that would let communities use taxes earmarked for economic development to enhance infrastructure around bases. Yet this job-protection effort may be too little, too late.

"The data are all in to support the closure decisions," Beeks said. "They are so far down that road that if you built a superhigh-way straight to the CO's door, you still couldn't influence the outcome of this deci-

State leaders would better serve their constituents at this point by focusing on improvements that will serve their communi-

Pause for collective gasp here. What many elected leaders have an almost impossible ability to recognize is that BRAC is not a guaranteed death knell for a community's economic health 'The hardest thing to convince people of

- and it only happens after they've through the process — is that there is life after BRAC," said Beeks. "It is a wrenching process but, if commu-

nities will come together and form reuse committees, the Defense Department will help with money, and other money available through the Commerce Department.

"Economies become more diversified, stronger and more immune to cyclical ups and downs of defense budgets. They become 21st century economies rather than 20th century industry economy that grows up around a base," Beeks said.

Beeks cites K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as a great example of how a much-condemned closure in 1995 turned into an economic development success story

A state-of-the-art lumber mill began operating in the old weapons storage area in 1997. The Marquette County airport had moved to the site by 1999. A company that performs aircraft maintenance for American Eagle airline is located there.

By 2001, all of the property that had been owned by the Air Force at the old Strategic Air Command facility was transferred to the county, which identified the area as the Marquette County Renaissance Zone.

In April 2004, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding to help B3 Computers develop a production facility that would employ 110 people at the former air base Granholm joined every other governor in

a state with military facilities in appointing a brass-heavy task force that will fight to keep remaining bases off the BRAC list in 2005 "BRAC isn't that 'five stages of death'

thing, but it's close," said Beeks. "Right now, everyone is in denial. Politically, I don't see how a mayor or governor doesn't do it. Realistically, it's a waste of money.

'If only they could be strong enough to stand up and say: 'Let's work to see what we could do with this if the base is gone.'

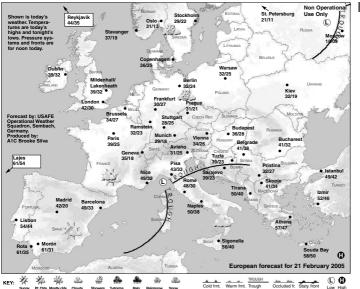
Jill "J.R." Labbe is a senior editorial writer and columnist for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



AFRICA



MIDEAST 57/43 51/36 61/38 LO 72 47 17 56 70 25 30 67 36 68/44 86 75 11 91 84 33 41 80 47 Karac 76/56

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rain and snow-showers. Highs in the 30s. Tuesday lows in the upper 20s. Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain and

snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Tuesday lows in the lower 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain

and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Tuesday lows in the lower 20s.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s. Tuesday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Northern Germany: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Tuesday lows in the

20s to lower 30s. Tuesday lows in the lower 20s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s. Tuesday lows in the upper teens to mid 20s

to mid 20s. Hungary: Mostly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s. Tuesday lows in the upper 20s. Northern Italy: Cloudy with snow-showers. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Tuesday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with iso-lated rainshowers and thunder-

lated rainshowers and thunder-storms. Highs in the mid to lower 50s. Tuesday lows in the lower to upper 30s. Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with snow-

showers. Highs in the lower 30s.
Tuesday lows in the upper 20s.
Norway: Partly cloudy with isolated

snowshowers. Highs in the 30s. Tuesday lows in the teens. Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snow showers. In the north, highs in the showers. In the north, highs in the 40s with Tuesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s. In the south, highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s with Tuesday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rainshow-ers and isolated thunderstorms. In the north, highs in the 40s with Tuesday lows in the mid 30s to howe.

Tuesday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s. In the south, highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s with Tuesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON

New moon 10 Mar 05





Scheduled to ETS or

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

The Leo moon is like a peacock among wrens. Its energy is grand showy and self-important. It grants permission to our emotional selves to strut, pose and, if **Holiday Mathis** need be, rant. On a personal level, the drama is ignited. And since it is Presidents' Day, the ranting that happens on a political level will be highly publicized, criticized and celebrated.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 21). Your favorite people respond to you, too, generating a swirl of social fun. You no longer believe the best is yet to come — the best is what you're doing in the moment, and moment by moment, you turn this year into a big success. Emotional ties you establish in June are lasting. Leo and Sagittarius are excellent romantic choices

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A threat, real or imagined, looms large in your head. Take action to tame this monster. Handle it first so you can get on with your day, giving full attention (or at least as much atten-

tion as possible) to your other duties TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Life feels fragmented into about 10 million pieces. But in reality, you are less disjointed than you think. Clear clutter at home, and you'll see plainly what else needs to be done. A

Virgo helps, too

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Productivity ebbs and flows. You'll have your Mary Poppins moment, though, and "a spoon full of sugar really will help the "medicine go down." Try to attack all work in the spirit of fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's

like you're playing a game of Madlibs. Everywhere you turn, there's a blank that needs filling in. Luckily, you're quite creative. And humorous, too - as your friends will later attest. Have fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People will interrupt you all day long if you let them! Control their access to you by getting strict with your schedule

Choose the hours you'll be available by phone, and don't answer it other than that

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A difference of opinion could come

between friends, but it's nothing serious. Helping some one take care of his or her own problems is far more effective than going out of your way to "fix" things

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's eas

to follow a partner's lead than to come up with your own structure. And there's nothing wrong with that today, as long as you choose a partner who actually knows what

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

he or she is doing.

You're in the mood to take chances, and your personal life is just the area to do this in now Emotionally you're a little tougher than usual and able to risk rejection - but also unlikely to experience it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). You may be the only one standing up for what's right. Someone in charge could get drunk with power and lose sight of what's good for everyone. Others will try and persuade you, but keep your standards high

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). One thing at a time. Jumping in with grandiose vision and high expectations may work at other times, but right now, what's really required is a more methodical and practical approach. Focus on the task at hand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may find out that you're not

using a resource (this might be a person, a software program or a club membership) to its fullest capacity - or not even closel Make an effort to better educate yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Learn the art of brinkmanship. Some

people don't think about the consequences of taking things to the absolute limit. Let yourself be influenced by their conviction. What seems extreme could be your best

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts









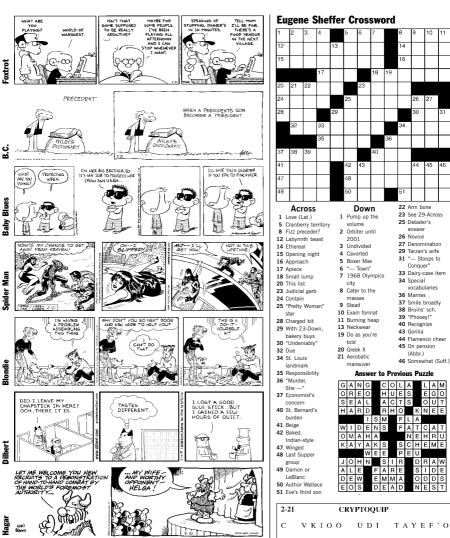












THE SMELL OF BURNING GOATS

SNIFF



Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S

Dog dispute minor in marriage

Dear Abby: My husband, "Sam," and I have been together

for 12 years, happily married for seven. We get along great, with only one area of major conflict I am a dog lover. Before we

married, I owned three beautiful springer spaniels. Sam knew that dogs were one of my greatest joys in life. He also knew that living with indoor dogs was important to me, and that I'd like to have hetween three and eight of

them We now have four indoor dogs. One of the dogs I had when I was single died two years ago, and my husband and I have adopted two, I'd love to get another one

but Sam says we have enough He says the dogs cause wear and tear on our home, and are expensive to maintain, especially since one of them requires medication for a heart problem.

I have a home-based business and enjoy the companionship of our "babies" enormously. I am their sole caregiver, and although I may not be the greatest housekeeper, our home is presentable. All of our pets are obedience school graduates.

I have offered to compromise I even suggested that we keep any new dogs outside.

although that would break my heart.

My offers have fallen on deaf ears

Please don't think that Sam is jealous of the dogs. That's not the case. He simply doesn't love animals like I do. I'm starting to resent that I can't have another dog because animals mean so much to me. Please tell me what you

think

— Just one More in Marvland Dear Just One More: Unless you want your marriage to end up in the doghouse, please reorganize your priorities. Since you feel the need to care for other dogs, consider donating some of your free time to an animal shel-

ter. They would welcome you with open arms, and there would he peace in your household.

Dear Abby: I am 13 and in the seventh grade. I am labeled as "shy" and "quiet" by my teachers and a lot of the kids at school. But when I'm at home or with close friends, they know differ-

What can I say when teachers say, "Oh, you're so quiet. Why don't you say anything?"

Abby, please let teachers know that these remarks only make matters worse. My mom and some of my friends have had the same experience.

Is there a polite response when people ask me why I'm quiet? - On the Spot in Alabama

Dear On the Spot: Try this: "I never learned anything while talking, but I have learned a lot while listening.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

one letter to each square

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to form four ordinary words.

MEFAL

KOLEY

LOUGEY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion Unscramble these four Jumbles.



HANDS. YOHRET Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Saturday's

lumbles: TRYST Answer

(Answers tomorrow) BICKER VALUED

JERKY "Aides" can give you this IDEAS

Confront withdrawn roommate

Dear Annie: I am a sophomore in college and share an apartment with four other girls. We are seriously concerned about our roommate, "Sherry. She never goes to class anymore (she rarely went last year), and she sleeps until 5 p.m. Because she avoids bathing and has

done laundry only a few

times this nast semester

she is starting to stink up

the entire apartment. More importantly, we are worried that her behavior could be a sign of depression. Sherry already is on anti-anxiety medication. We're not really close to her, and if we bring up her mental health, she is likely to become defensive

and yell at us - Concerned Roommate in Wisconsin

Dear Roommate: The four of you must talk to Sherry, even she becomes defensive and yells. So what? You can take it, and she needs your help. Tell her she ought to see someone at the school's health clinic and offer to go with her. Give her the Web sites



of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alli-ance (dbsalliance.org) and the National All ance for the Mentally III (www.nami.org or 1-800-950-NAMI).

Ask if she'd like you to call her parents. Sherry may be relieved to know someone cares enough to confront her. And if she refuses to get help. or you notice that she is getting worse.

talk to a counselor on campus and ask for advice

Dear Annie: I have disagreed with some of your re sponses but never felt strongly enough to write. However, your response to "Confused in Ohio"

sent me right through the roof. "Confused" said her friend's elderly father looked at child pornography on the Internet. How could you advise the women to talk to her friend AGAIN, saying, "Grandpa should get counseling before he gets arrested"? You should have told

her to get on the phone and re-port this to the authorities. Viewing child pornography supports an industry that has hurt many children and destroyed lives. Just because the children in the pictures aren't living in his home doesn't excuse his behavior.

- L.T. in California

Dear L.T.: We were thinking that it does little good to offer advice that is not going to be followed. It would have been simple to tell "Confused" to call the police and have them arrest the father of her best friend, but

she isn't likely to do it. We hoped discussing this more emphatically with her friend, telling her that Dad's behavior was not normal, that he could be arrested, and that the grandchil dren were at risk, would push the family to take action. But many readers agreed with you that "Confused" should call the authorities

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndi-cate, 3717 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Family Circus



"I'm tired of Old Maid, Daddy. Will you teach us how to play poker?"

Seguitu



"I AM NOT A SNOB. I'M A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, TALENTED, ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY."



*Staaaaaanleeeeeeeey!





Connecticut 85, Syracuse 49 Curry 70, Gordon 64

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: Nissan Open, nal round (did). mma round (did).

AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.—Auto racing: Nextel
Cup Daytona 500 (did).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College basketball:
Wake Forest at Duke (did).

Tuesday AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—Auto racing: Busch Series Goody's 200 (did). AFN-Sports and Radio, 1 a.m.—College bas-ketball: Notre Dame at Connecticut. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—College basketball: Kansas at Oklahoma. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—Lonege basketball: annasa at Oklahoma.
AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.—College basketball: an Diego St. at Wyoming.
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Pro football: Arena ootball League, teams TBD (dld). Football League, teams TBD (dld).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Boxing: Bernard Hop-kins (45-2-1, 32 KOs) vs. Höward Eastman (40-0,34 KOs) for WBC middleweight champi-(40-u, 34 KOs) for WBC middleweight champi-onship (dld). **AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.**—Boxing: Laila Ali (20-0, 17 KOs) vs. Cassandra Geigger (6-5, 6 KOs) for WIBA super middleweight championship (dld).

Wednesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m. -College basketball:
Purdue at Indiana.
AFN-Radio, 1:30 a.m. -NBA: Toronto at
New Jersey:
AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. -College basketball:
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m. -College basketball:
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m. -College basketball:
AFN-Boorts, 4 a.m. -Rodeo: Professional
Bull Riding Ford Dealers Invitational (did).

All times are Central European Time; dld in dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Saturday
1. Illinois (27-0) beat lowa 75-65. Next: vs. Northwestern, Wednesday. Northwestern, Wednesday, 2. Kansas (20-3) lost to lowa State 63-61, 0.T. Next: at No. 21 Oklahoma, Monday, 3. Kentucky (20-3) beat Mississippi State 94-78. Next: Us. Auburn, Wednesday, 4. North Carollina (22-3) beat Clemson 88-56. Next: at North Carolina State, Tues-day. day. 5. Wake Forest (22-3) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Duke, Sunday. 6. Boston College (22-1) beat No. 9 Syra-cuse 65-60. Next: at No. a. Beston College (22-1) beat No. 9 Syra-byl Syrabol (12-4) did not play, Next xs. No. 5 2-5 Villanous, Weinbedgy, No. 10-10 (12-4) did not play, Next xs. No. 5 5-50 Next at 12-10 (12-10) beat Tensa Tech 12-10 (12-10) beat Syrabol (12-10) beat Syrabol (12-10) beat Syrabol 12-10 (12-10) bea 16. Alabama (21-4) beat South Carolina 87-68. Next: at LSU, Tuesday. 17. Pittsburgh (18-4) did not play. Next: at 18. Connecticut (17-6) beat Rutgers 85-63. Next: vs. Notre Dame, Monday. 19. Pacific (22-2) beat Texas-El Paso 73-66. Next: vs. Cal State Northridge. Saturday. 10. Facilite (22-2) Deats Vesteriale, Saturoany, New York, Satisfied Northridge, Saturoany, New York, Satisfied Northridge, Saturoany, New York, Satisfied November (17-6) did not play. Next: at No. 11 Michigan Satisfied Northridge, Satisfied Northridge, Nort

mingham 72-69. Next: vs. Marquette, manday. 25. Villanova (16-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Pittsburgh, Sunday. Saturday's men's scores

Seaturudy's Mell's Scores

Lest
Albary, N.Y. 76, UMBC 62

Albred, T3, Susquehanna 69, OT

Alfred, Barbarow, Co.

Alfred, Barbarow, Co.

Bard, Barbarow, Co.

Bard, Barbarow, Co.

Bentley, B. Bryant 73

Bentley, B. Bryant 73

Bentley, B. Bryant 73

Bentley, B. Grent, S. Grent, S.

Bentley, B. Grent, S.

Bentley, B. Grent, S.

Bentley, B. Grent, S.

Bestley, B. Grent, S.

Boston, College, B., Syrause, 60

Bercherd, B. Army, S.

Bestley, B. Grent, S.

Bestley, B. Grent, S.

Bestley, B. Grent, S.

Bestley, B. Grent, B. Grent, B.

Bestley, B. Grent, B. Grent, B.

Bestley, CS Northridge 68' Fairfield 65 Caldwell 72, Goldey Beacom 5! Catholic 64, Gallaudet 55 Clarion 72, California, Pa. 49 Clark U. 69, Coast Guard 54 Concord 97, W. Virginia St. 94 Concordia, N.Y. 77, Dowling 58 Connecticut 85, Rutgers 63' Conclusies, Tel. S. Ruboverings Control St. Ruboverings Cornell St. Ruboverings Cornell St. Rubovering St. Cornell St. Rubovering St. Columbia 48 Darking & Elicina St. St. Busing St. St. P. Davis & Elicabellot St. 79 Dominican, N.Y. 64, Wilmington, Del. 55 Elizabethtown St. Moravian 63 Elizabethtown St. Moravian 63 Elizabethtown St. Moravian 64 OT Franklin & Marshall St. Westhington, Md. 71 Franklin & Marshall St. Westhington, Md. 71 Franklin & Marshall St. Westhington, Md. 71 Franklin & Marshall 97, Washington Geneseo St. 82, Brockport 78 Geneva 86, Roberts Wesleyan 72 George Washington 80, Duquesne 5 Gettylsburg 79, Swarthmore 50 Glenville St. 97, W. Va. Wesleyan 88 Hamilton 90, RPI 81 Hobart 86, Vassar 72 Hofstra 75, Delaware 57 Holy Cross 59, Colgate 46

Holy Family 111, Post, Conn. 105, OT Kean 63, Montclair St. 55 Kean 63, Montclair St. 55 Keystone 87, Keuka 66 Kings, Pa. 89, FDU-Florham 73 Lafayette 93, American U. 89, OT Lebanon Valley 62, Juniata 47 Lock Haven 69, Edinboro 63 Maine 61, Hartford 58 Mansfield 101, Kutztown 86 Mass-Charlmouth 55, 5, Mulhain 61, Massinching 61, Marin 61, Massinching 61, Lundish 63 O' Massinching 61, Lundish 63 O' Massinching 61, Lundish 63 O' Massinching 61, Marin 61, Marin 61, Massinching 61, Marin 61, Mar Mass.-Dartmouth 95, S. Maine 61 Massachusetts 69, La Salle 66, OT Merrimack 80, Assumption 63 Wilkes 64, Drew 61 William Paterson 103, Rutgers-Camden 45 Worcester Tech 84, Mount Ida 40 Yale 78, Penn 60 York, Pa. 78, Mary Washington 68 SOUTH Two. 4. T., 3. Gar Washington 68
Ala-Hurstylle S. Southeronia 65
Alabama 27. South Carolina 63
Alabama 28. South Carolina 63
Berry 67. Rollina 49
Berr Greenstoon GT, Shenandoah 65
Guillord BB, Bridgewater, Va. 62
Hampden-Sydneri, 64, Roanoke 56
Hampden-Sydneri, 64, Roanoke 56
Hampden-Sydneri, 64, Roanoke 56
Hampden-Sydneri, 64, Roanoke 56
Jackson St. 62, Grambling St. 38
Johnson Bible 80, Temple Baptist 68
Kentucky SH, Massisspipi St. 78
Laurent Grambling St. 38
Laure Lipscopins 88, Cardiner, Webbs, 18, 1922

Lipscopins 80, Cardiner, Webbs, 18, 1922

Lipscopins 1922

Lipscop

South Florida 60, East Carolina 50 Southern Poly St. 90, Reinhardt 73 Southern Poly St. 90, Reinhardt 73 Southern U.S. Alabama St. 55 Temple 59, Richmond St. 55 Temple 59, Richmond St. 55 Temple 59, Richmond St. 55 Tennt. Wesleyan 90, Bryan 88 Tennt. Wesleyan 90, Bryan 88 Tennt. Wesleyan 90, Bryan 81 Texas-Falla 67, Louislana-Monroe 51 Texas-Falla 67, Louislana-College 58 Texas-San Antonio 63, Nicholas St. 78 Transylvania 76, Defance 73 Transylvania 76, Defance 73 UCF 70, Georgia St. 65 TUSCULINT 97, NEWBERTY 85 UCF 70, Georgia St. 65 UNC-Greensboro 92, Appalachian St. 73 Union, Tenn. 78, Mountain St. 75 Valdosta St. 58, West Alabama 47 Valdosta St. SB, West Alabama Vanderbilt 79, Arkansas 65 Virginia Tech 71, Miami 58 W. Kentucky 75, Bradley 60 William Carey 70, Tougaloo 66 Winthrop 74, High Point 66 Wofford 77, Furman 70 MIDWEST windring Jr., High Fourt to Market T Brekel 74, Ball St. 70 Earlham 64, Oberlin 56 Edgewood 63, Maranatha Baptist 56 Emporia St. 64, Truman St. 63 Findlay 92, Ashland 59 Findlay 92, Ashland 59 Friends 69, Bethel, Kan. 58 Gustavus Adolphus 82, 5L. John's, Minn. 73 Hamline 82, Concordia, Moor. 79 Hanoyer 68, Franklin 67 III.-Chicago 92, Georgia Southern 83 IIIInols 75, Iowa 65 IIIInols 51, 78, Wis-Green Bay 69 Northwestern 54, Penn St. 39 Northwestern, Iowa 97, Sioux Falls 69 Obio 66, Detroit 65 Ohio 66, Detroit 65 Oklahoma 69, Kansas St. 68 Oral Roberts 86, SW Missouri St. 76 Pittsburg St. 94, SW Baptist 70 Purdue-Calumet 81, Judson 56 Robert Morris-Chic. 90, Olivet Nazarene 81 S. Illinois 65, Kent St. 54 S. Indiana 78, Missouri-St. Louis 51 S. Indiana 78, Missouri-St. Louis SIU-Edwardsville 83, Bellamin Shawnee St. 62, Walsh 40 Simpson, Iowa 78, Luther 54 South Dakota 74, North Dakots St. Ambrose 85, Mount Mercy St. Xavier 87, St. Francis, III. 70 St. Sterling 72, Bethany, Kan. 69 Tabor 64, Ottawa, Kan. 56 Tabor 64, Ottawa, Kan. 56 Toledo 78, SMU 67 Trinity 63, Rose-Hulman 52 Trinity 63, Rose-Hulman 52 Viterbo 68, William Penn 55 W. Illinois 70, S. Utah 50 Viterino 68, William Penn 50, Washburn 78, Missouri Rolla 69 Webster 75, Greenville 73, Washburn 78, Missouri Rolla 69 Webster 75, Greenville 73, Washburn 78, Wa

Houston 69, TCU 57 MVSU 75, Prairie View 60 MVSU 75, Prairie View 60 Mary Hardin-Baylor 61, Hardin-Simmons 56 McNeese St. 73, Sam Houston St. 70 Murray St. 69, Rice 63 Oklahoma St. 85, Texas Tech 56 St Louislana 52, Stephen F-Austin 41 Sul Ross St. 106, Schreiner 90 Texas 75, Baylor 60 Texas 75, Baylor 60
Texas A&M Commerce 75, W. Texas A&M 59
Texas A&M-Cc. 73, Utah Vailey St. 47
Texas A&M-Kings, 88, Abilene Christian 59
Texas Suthern 62, Art. Pine Bluff 52
Texas Southern 62, Art. Pine Bluff 52
Texas Southern 62, Art. Pine Bluff 52
Texas Pan American 79, Central Baptist 69
Tulsa 79, N. Arizona 64

Tulsa 79, N. Arizona 64

FAR WEST

Adams St. 93, Colo.-Colo. Springs 68

Alaska-Fairbanks 82, W. Washington 74 Alaska-Farbanis S.Z. W. Washington 74 Arzona S.L. 60, regon 56 SV-V-Hewali 114, Montana S. Billings 84 Birling 52, Prens 55. 40 Call St. Hillerton 64, Urath 35 Ch. 60 Call St. Hillerton 64, Urath 35 Ch. 60 Call St. Hillerton 64, Urath 35 Ch. 60 Colorado St. 93, 35 m Diego St. 88, 07 Permer 61, New Mexico St. 58, 50 Permer 61, New Mexico St. 58, 50 Permer 61, New Mexico St. 59 Conzaga 17, San Francisco 73 Nevada 14, Vermont 64 New Mexico 91, 89 TO 7 Rocky Mountain 90, Montana-Western 80 Sacrimento S. 74, Montana 14, Serier 80 Sacrimento S. 74, Montana 14, Serier 80 Sacrimento S. 74, Montana 16, Serier 80 Sacrimento S. 74, Montana 18, Serier 80 Sacrimento S. 74, Montana 18, Serier 80 Sacrámento St. 70, Montana St. 68 San Diego 89, Portland 73 Santa Clara 78, Loyola Marymount 70 Southern Cal 89, California 70 St. Mary's, Cal. 81, Pepperdine 69 Texas A&M 92, Colorado 77 UC Irvine 77, UC Davis 66 UC Riverside 63, Idaho 62

US eynor (A. U.C. Davis 6, U.C. Davis 7, C.C. Davis 7, C.C. Davis 7, C.C. Davis 7, C.C. Davis 7, U.C. Davis 7, U.C

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Saturday
1. LSU (24-1) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Sunday, 2. Ohio State (25-2) did not play. Next: at Meerphis Sundity, best Oslahoma Sate 7-54. Apert vs. Copringd, Wednesday, with the same of "22. Vannterbilf (18-9 old not play. Next: at Florida, Sunday-Green Bay (22-3) lost to Youngstown St. 60-58. Next: vs. Wiscon-32. Penn State (17-8) dld not play. Next: vs. Northwestern, Sunday. 25. Boston College (17-7) beat Seton Hall 71-44. Next: at No. 10 Rutgers, Tuesday.

Saturday's women's scores

Saturday's women's score

American U. 58, Lafayette 56

Amy S8, Bucknell 58, Anderson 58, Stockholl 58

Amy S8, Bucknell 58, OT

Boston College 71, Seton Hall 44

Brockport 76, Geneseo St. 55

Catholic 70, Gallaudet 55

Catholic 70, Gallaudet 55

Cancordia, N.Y. 89, NovU Tech 66

Concordia, N.Y. 78, Dowling 75

Curry 70, Gordon 54 Dartmouth 59, Columbia 56 Davis & Elkins 81, Bluefield St. 63 DeSales 71, Lycoming 60 Dominican, N.Y. 70, Wilmington, Drew 67, Wilkes 48 Edinboro 73, Lock Hayen 62 ington Del 67 Drive G. Willess, 48, Hauer G. S. Fairlied S. Nigager S. S. New Hammadham, 18d. S. Friedman, 18d. S. Friedman, 18d. S. Friedman, 18d. S. New Hammadham, 18d. S. Friedman, 18d. S. New Hammadham, 18d. S. Friedman, 18d. S. New Hammadham, 18d. S. N Lebanon Valley 79, Juniata 6: Maine 56, Hartford 51 Mansfield 75, Kutztown 62 Mary Washington 65, York, Pa. 59 Merrimack 62, Assumption 51 Messiah 74. Widener 63 Merrinates, S.A., Assumption 5.1 Misericordin S.A. Kempann 52 Moormooth, N. S. C. Failler of Dickinson 52 Moormooth, N. S. C. Failler of Dickinson 52 Moormooth, S. C. Failler of Dickinson 52 Mourt S. Harry's, Md. G. Wagner 45 N. Teet 73, Bloomheid 55 N. Teet 73, Bloomheid 55 Navy 64, Leihigh 9. Navy 64, L Pill. Orientaburi S. Frostbury St. 93
Pill. Orientaburi S. Frostbury St. 93
Pill. Orientaburi S. Prostbury S. 93
Pill. Orientaburi S. 93
Pill. Orienta St. bose os. S. Ansein 39
St. State and S. Ansein 39
St. State and S. Ansein 30
St. State and S. Ansein 30
St. State and S. State and S West Florida 76, Montevallo 61 West Georgia 70, Ala.-Huntsville 56

TANK MCNAMARA



ONE OF THE WAYS THAT OUR GAME IS MORE HUMANIZED THAN OTHER PRO LEAGUES IS THAT FANS CAN SEE THE FACES OF OUR PLAYERS.



AND IN A CURIOUSLY COINCIDENTAL NEWS ITEM, ROUND* TIRES IS PAYING ONE OF THE STUFFERS PLAYERS TO CORNOW HIS HAIR INTO A TREAD PATTERN.



SEE SOCREBOARD ON PAGE 25

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 24

63, Hope 62 Albion 63, Hope 62 Alma 63, Kalamazoo 53 Baldwin-Wallace 84, Capital 68 Ball St. 67, Akron 51 Black Hills St. 66, Valley City St. 60 Buena Vista 81, Wartburg 66 Calvin 68, Adrian 44 Bunns Miss B, Warthurry & ...

Bunns Miss B, Warthurry & ...

Charling B, Admin M, Min G, D

Cardarville S, Madra M, Min G, D

Cardarville S, Madra M, Min G, D

Cardarville S, Madra M, Min G

Controllation M, Min S, Min S, Min S

Controllation M, Min S, Min S, Min S

Controllation S, Min S, Min S, Min S, Min S

Cardarville S, Min S, Min S, Min S, Min S, Min S

Franck Ing J, Stanover G

Millidade Barylat K, Certf. Bible S, OT 10

Millidade Barylat K, Dentry M, Min S, Min M, Min S, Min M, Min llowa 78, Michigan 59 John Carroll 69, Ohio Northern 57 Kansas St. 73, Colorado 51 Kent St. 60, Toledo 51 Rent St. Qr. Action State 1.

Rentynor TJ, Hillern SH, Wis 4.

Loras TJ, Cornell, Iowa 48.

Loras TJ, Cornell, Iowa 48.

Mancharyan SL, Wiserstminder, Mo. 75.

Manchester St, Bluttion 46.

Manchester St, Bluttion 46.

Manchester St, Bluttion 46.

Manchester St, Bluttion 47.

Michigan Teen 65. Saginav Valley 51. 54.

Minn. More Teen 50.

Missouri Stutter 64.

Missouri Stutter Shawine St. 79, Walsh St. 1.
Shawine St. 79, Walsh St. 1.
Shawine Sheking At. 67
Slouk Falls St. Northwestern, Iowa 64
Southwest St. Minn. 92, Concrolla, St. 69
Study St. 100, Diver 57
St. Francis, Ind. 83, Taylor of 92
St. Francis, Ind. 83, Taylor of 92
St. Francis, Ind. 83, Taylor of 92
St. Waly St. 106, Diver 57
St. Many's Ind. 90, Diver 57
St. Xayler 98, Robert Morris-Chicago
Valgariado St. 9, Utah 38
Willinois St. Van Bloomet S2
Willinois St. Van Bloomet S2
Willinois St. Van Bloomet S2
Willinois St. Van Bloomet S2 W. Illinois 67, Oral Roberts 32
Waldorf 83, Iowa Weslyn 76
Washburn 63, Missouri-Rolla 54
Webster 69, Greenville 56
Wilberforce 79, Ohio Dominican 78 Webster for Generalitie So.

Handle So.

H Texas A&M-Kings. 79, Abilene Christian 78, OT Texas Lutheran 64, Howard Payne 63 Texas St. 85, Lamar 67 Texas Tech 56, Texas A&M 53 Tulsa 62, Nevada 57 UTEP 71, Hawaii 50 W. Kentucky 82, Ark-Little Rock 72 FAR WEST

Adams St, 61, Colo-Colo, Springs 49 Arizona St. 66, Oregon St. 56 Bry 15, New Mexico 46 Bolse St. 67, San Jose St. 54 Cal Poly-SLO 71, Pacific 52 Carroll, Mont. 86, Montana Tech 40 Colorado St. 56, San Diego St. 49 Gorza Humboldt St. 59, Alaska-Fairbanks S8 Idaho 70, UC Riverside 59 Idaho St. 80, E. Washington 69 Idaho St. 80, E. Washington 69 Louislana-Ladyaette 72, New Mexico St. 57 Loyola Marymount 61, Santa Clara 52 Montana St. 74, Sacramento St. 65 Montana St. 74, Sacramento St. 65 Montana St. Horth. 71, Westminster, Utah Montana-Western 61, Rocky Mountain 53 N. Arizona 61, Montana 53 N. Arizona 61, Montana 59 N. Arizona 61, Montana 59

CUNY Tournar Quarterfina Baruch 67, CCNY 42 Hunter 70, York, N.Y. 52 Lehman 72, NYCCT 46 ten Island 79, Brooklyn 39 Quarterfinals Amherst 55, Wesleyan, Conn. 53 EXHIBITION Slovak Republic 57, Central 51

College baseball

Saturday's scores

Alabama 6, N.C.-Asheville 0 Alabama A&M 11-1, Tenn. Temple 4-2 UAB 6-7, Cent. Michigan 5-2 Anderson, S.C. 17-3, St. Andrew's 12-8 Armstrong Atlantie 6, S. Connecticut 1 Affection Atlantic e. S. Armstri I. Va. Commonwealth 0 Barry 9, Eckerd 3 Belmont 4, Morehead St. 2 Birmingham-Southern 8-7, Austin Peay 6-5 Campbell 6-3, Ohio 4-1 Centenary 9, N. 10wa 5 Centenary 9, N. Iowa 5
Charlotte 6, Penn St. 3
Chinchmal 14, Duke 11, 2mry 9
Columbus St. 12-13, S.C.-Alken 3-1
ETSU 5-3, Nagara 4-7
Forda 2, Maint 1, 11 Innings
Florida 5, Tol U. Salle 1
Florida St. 11, Salle 1
Florid Georgia S., Elon 4 Georgia Southern 9, George Washington 8 Georgia Tech 9-16, Iona 3-5 Harding 13-6, Williams Baptist 8-5 High Point 4, N. Carolina A&T 3, 10 Innings, 2nd game, ppd., darkness Illinois St. 12, Stetson 6

Jackson St. 17, AFK.-Pine Bluff 12 Lander 5-16, Augusta St. 3-12 Liberty 10, Hoftsra 9 Lipscomb 8-8, Xavier 5-3 Louisiana, College 9-12, Hillsdale Free Will

Listing Conference 57.2 Hillsdale Free Will Baptist 3.5 growth and paper 3.2 hillsdale Free Will Baptist 3.5 growth and paper 3.2 hillsdale Free Will Study Horsey 2.1 heads and paper 3.2 hillsdale 5.2 hillsdale 5

Navy 17-7, Savannah St. 8-15 Nicholls St. 13, Grambling St. 3 North Carolina S, Seton Hall 0 Notre Dame 4, Florida A&M 3 N.C. State 8, San Diego St. 5 Palm Beach Atlantic 12-11, Clear tian 1-1 Rollins 4-4, Prosbytesian 1

Palm Beach Atlantic 12-11. Clearwater Chris
Pollinis 4-4, Presbyerian 1-1
Rotgers 6, William 6, Mary 17
Rotgers 6, William 6, Mary 17
Sputh Carolina 16, Radford 7
Sputh Carolina 16, Radford 85 d. 4
Teach 11, Acron 56 d. 10
Trevecco Nazarere 12-4, Siena Heights 0-0
Tullare 7, Arzona 54 2
Tugsclum 3-5, Concord 1-1
Tugsclum 3-5, Concord 1-1
Tugsclum 3-5, Concord 1-1
Tugsclum 6, Delwayer 8, 11 Innings

LIGSUMM 1-9 LONGORD 1-1
LIGSUMM 1-9 LONGORD 1-1
UNIO-Greensborg C, belawire 5, 11 Innings
UNIO, Fern. S, Ghawe 81, 3
UNIO, Fern.

merican 2 Arizona 8, Texas-Pan American 2 Baylor 2, Oral Roberts 1 Dallas Baptist 12, Texas-San Antonio 4 East Central 9-4. Texas A&M-Kingsville 6-6

Dalles Bappig 17, Texas-San Antonio 4, Goldsom as E., Birpino 3 http://doi.org/10.1003

St. Many, Coll. & Sacromento St. J.
St. Many, Coll. & Sacromento St. J.
San Jose St. J. Lepyla Maymouth, Coll.
Southern Coll at Call St. Fullerton, ppd., rail
US saria Burbara, Frenco St. J.
Saria St. J. April proceed policy and the Beach
Cost and Carolina St. Cemento 3.
School St. Saria S

Coca-Cola Classic (Houston)
Rice 5, Mississippi 4
Lamar 17, SW Missouri St. 3
Coca-Cola Classic (Mobile, Ala.)
Jacksonville 5, Wake Forest 4
Texas A&M 4, South Alabama 2
Griffin-Pontiac Challenge
Missouri 10, Winthrop 3
Gardner-Webb 2, Akron 0
Gardner-Webb 2, Akron 0
Missouri 10, Winthrop 3 Old Dominion 5, Richmond 4 The Citadel 15, Connin St. 0

Louisiana-Lafayette Inviational Louisiana-Lafayette 7, St. John's 2 Louisiana-Lafayette 7, St. John's 2 Northwestern St. 2, Southern U, 0 Savannah State Invitation Navy 17, Savannah St. 8 Villanova 5, Virginia Tech 3 Texas-Arlington Invitation Arkansas St. 4, Northwestern 0 Texas-Arlington 5, Kansas St. 4

College hockey

Saturday's scores

EAST national 4, Sacred Heart 1 vdoin 2 Amherst 4, powers... Army 3, Bentley 1 Babson 5, New England Coll. 3 Babson 5, New England Boston U. 2, Massachus Brown 5, Clarkson 2 Colby 3, Hamilton 3, tie Colpate 1, RPI 0 Mainhait Armiller Sec. Anseter Tech 1, 01
Mass-Lowell 4, Boston College 1,
Mass-Lowell 4, Boston College 1,
Middlebury 7, Norvich 3,
Middlebury 7, Middlebury 8,
Middlebury 9,
Middlebury 8,
Middlebury 8,
Middlebury 8,
Middlebury 8,
Middlebury 9,
Middlebu hester Tech 1. OT

ns 8, St. Michael's 2 MIDWEST Williams, S.S. Michael's 27.
Berndig S.S. Jahbanen-Huntsville 2
Berndig S.S. Jahbanen-Huntsville 2
Bowling Geen's, W. Michael 2
Bowling Geen's Geen

Minnesota 7, US National Under-18 Team 5
TOURNAMENTS
MCHA Tournament
Semifinals

MCIA Tournament
Minn-Crookston with a warence 4, OT,
Minn-Crookston with a more of the Minn-Crookston with a M

Wis.-Superior 5, St. Scholastica 2, Wis.-Superior wins series

2-0 SUNYAC Tournament Quarterfinals
Plattsburgh 4, Potsdam 1, Plattsburgh wins series 2-0 series 2-0 Cortland St. 4, Fredonia St. 3, Fredonia St. wins mini-game 2-1, OT and series 2-1

Auto racing

NASCAR-Busch Hershey's Take 5 300

Saturday At Daytona International Speedway Daytona Beach, Fla.

Daytona Beach, Fia.

Lap Jength: 25 miles
(Start position in parentheses)
1. (14) Tory Stewart, Chevrolet, 120, 150,021 mph, \$102,476.
2. (7) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 120, \$82,150.
3. (26) Dale Earnhardt Jr, Chevrolet, 120, \$67,923. 4. (23) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 120, 4. (23) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 120, \$79,495. 5. (18) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 120, \$58,050. 6. (21) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 120, \$50,675 350,675. 7. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 120, \$49,590.

\$40,550. 8. (12) Greg Biffle, Ford, 120, \$47,625. 9. (5) Reed Sorenson, Dodge, 120, \$52,575. 10. (29) Carl Edwards, Ford, 120, \$53,825. 11. (22) Bobby Hamilton, Dodge, 120, \$44,425. 12. (6) Clint Bowyer, Chevrolet, 120, 12. (6) Clint Bowyer, Chevrolet, 120, \$60,950, 13. (34) Ashton Lewis Jr., Ford, 120, \$50,708. 14. (1) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 120, \$46,775. 15. (31) Mike Wallace, Pontiac, 120, \$47,325.

\$47,325. 16. (42) Derrike Cope, Ford, 120, \$47,475. 17. (4) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 120, \$47,425. 00. (28) Randy LaJoie, Chevrolet, 120, \$41,775. 20. (9) J.J. Yeley, Chevrolet, 120, \$47,700. 21. (43) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 120, \$41,525. 22. (25) David Green, Ford, 120, \$46,600.

(25) David Green, Ford, 120, \$46,500.
 (35) Stacy Compton, Ford, 120, \$46,758.
 (117) Tim Fedewa, Dodge, 120, \$45,120.
 (27) Michel Jourdain, Ford, 120, \$43,075.
 (39) Paul Wolfe, Dodge, 120, \$41,000.
 (39) Shawna Robinson, Chevrolet, 120, \$42,775.

28. (41) Steve Grissom, Ford, 120, \$44,720. 29. (20) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 120.

\$42,600. 30. (16) A.J. Fike, Dodge, 120, \$40,925. 31. (38) Jon Wood, Ford, 120, \$42,310. 32. (2) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 120, \$50,020. 33, (11) Denny Hamlin, Chevrolet, 120, \$50,020, 34,700, 34, (36) Kertus Davis, Chevrolet, 120, \$42,150.

\$61,55,36) Kertus Davis, Chevrolet, 120, 55,133 Jason Keller, Ford, 119, \$42,000. 56, (23) Span Hemphill, Dodge, 112, acci-27, (20) Kenny Wallace, Ford, 103, \$43,885, 58, (27) Donke Neuerberger, Chevrolet, 39, (13) Shane Hinlet, Chevrolet, 74, engine factor, \$43,000. Stremme, Dodge, 56, engine failure, \$43,000. Stremme, Dodge, 56, engine failure, \$43,000. fallure, \$43,760. 41. (10) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 33, engine fallure, \$43,675. 42. (19) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 22, engine 42. (12) 35cming manny, because alliure, \$39,605.
43. (40) Jeff Fuller, Chevrolet, 3, overheating, \$39,560.
Time of Race: 1 hour, 59 minutes, 59 sec-

Point Standings: Stewart 190, Harvick 170, Point Standings: Stewart 190, Harvick 170, Earnhardt Jr. 170, Truex Jr. 160, Kahne 155, Gordon 150, Biffle 147, Waltrip 146, Edwards

Skiing

World Cup

Sunday At Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany Men's super-G Christoph Gruber, Austria, 1 minute,

8.18 seconds. 2. Didier Defago, Switzerland, 1:18.19. 3. Francois Bourque, Canada, 1:18.22. Junior Versido, Switzerado, 118,37
 Bode Miller, United States, 118,39
 Safichae Walchnofer, Austria, 118,84
 Safe Walchnofer, Austria, 118,84
 Safe Walchnofer, Austria, 118,84
 Safe Walchnofer, Austria, 118,85
 Safe Walchnofer, Austria, 118,85
 Safe Walchnofer, Austria, 118,85
 Safe Walch, Austria, 118,85
 Overall standings
 Overall standings
 Overall standings
 Safe Walchnofer, 118,85
 Safe Walchnofer

Valchhöfer, Austria, 910.

4. Hermann Maier, Austria, 878.
5. Daron Rahlves, United States,
Super-G standings
(After five races)

Overal standings

1. Anija Paerson, Sweden, 961 points.
2. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 952
2. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 953
2. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 953
2. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 953
2. Renate Goesteli, Austria, 870
2. Renate Goesteli, Austria, 870
2. Michael Dorfmeister, Austria, 870
2. Michael Dorfmeister, Austria, 870
2. Michael Dorfmeister, Austria, 870
2. Tania, Pouliamer, Phaland, 381
2. Tania, Pouliamer, Phaland, 381
2. Amaria Jose Rienda Contreras, Spain, 284
2. Karen Putzer, Tally, 208.

Golf

Jerry Pate R.W. Eaks Jim Albus Tom Wargo Gil Morgan D.A. Welbring Don Pooley Ron Streck

Don Pooley Ron Streck Bruce Lietzke

Bruce Lietzke
J.C. Snead
Wayne Levi
Don Reese
Bruce Fleisher
Des Smyth
Jim Thorpe
Tom Jenkins
Rodger Davis
Dana Quigley
Morris Hatalsky
Leonard Thomp
Ine Imman

Joe Inman Ben Crenshaw

Graham Marsh Tom Purtzer Bobby Wadkins Keith Fergus

Reith Fergus Brad Bryant Pete Oakley Walter Hall Jay Sigel Ed Fiori Tom Watson

Champions Tour-ACE Group Classic

...e Ciub at TwinEagle
Naples, Fla.
Purses \$1.6 million
Yardage: 7,139; Par: 72
Second Round
Mark Lames
Halle Irwin Saturday At The Club at TwinEagles

-9 -7 -6 -6 69-68-137 67-70-137 70-68-138 68-70-138 70-69-139 69-70-139 68-71-139 71-69-140 71-69-140 71-69-140 68-72-140 72-69-141 70-71-141 68-73-141 72-70-142 72-70-142 70-72-142 68-74-142 71-72-143 73-70-143

75-69-144 72-73-145 72-73-145 71-74-145

71-74-145 73-72-145

Curtis Strang Jim Ahern

Vance Heafner Raymond Floyd 74-71-145 +1 70-75-145 +1 74-71-145 +1 70-75-145 +1 70-75-145 +1

Malaysian Open At Saujana Golf and Country Club Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Purse: \$1.21 million Yardage: 6,569; Par: 72 Final

ai Jaidee 64-66-67-70 Jyoti Randhawa Henrik Stenson Niclas Fasth 70-68-65-67 - 270 69-64-71-67 - 271 67-70-71-68 - 276 68-70-70-68-276 68-70-70-68-276 68-65-713-69-277 71-66-67-74-278 70-70-69-69-278 71-69-70-68-279 73-71-67-68-279 Prom Meesawat Padraig Harrington Liang Wen-Chong Gary Orr Scott Barr naworn Wir imon Yates dam Blyth imon Dyson ille Edbern nder 73-71-67-68-279
69-70-71-69-279
69-69-69-72-279
69-71-70-70-280
68-68-73-71-280
67-69-71-73-280
69-68-72-71-280
71-72-69-68-280 Anders Hansen Graeme Storm

RMK Championships

Tennis

At The Racquet Club of Memphis
Memphis, Tenn.
Purse: Men, \$690,000 (intl.); Women,
\$70,000 (Ter III)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Singles
Men
Semifinals

Semifinals
Kenneth Carlsen, Denmark, def. Andy Roddick (1), United States, walkover.
Max Mirnyi (8), Belarus, def. Tommy Haas
(2), United States, 7-5, 6-3.
Women

Vera Zvonarea (J.), to Strimy Haas

Chwomen

Chw

Men Semifinals
Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (1), United States, def, Wayne Arthurs and Paul Hanley (3), Australia, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (6). Simon Aspelin, Australia, and Todd Perry (4), Australia, def, Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, and Max Mirnyi, Belarus, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

women Championship Miho Saeki and Yuka Yoshida, Japan, def. Laura Granville and Abigail Spears, United States, 6-3, 6-4. **Diamond Games**

> Sunday At Sportspaleis Antwer Antwerp, Belgium Purse: \$585,000 (Tier II) Surface: Hard-Indoor

Surface: Hard-Indoor Singles Final Amelie Mauresmo (1), France, def. Venus Williams (3), United States, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. Saturday Singles Semifinals

Ampleis Mauramin G. Pragoc. def. Alicia Molik (d). Augment G. Pragoc. def. Alicia Wetney Williams (f). United States, def. Vetney Williams (f). United States, def. Semilinab Cara Black, Zizardhab Cara Black, Zizardhab Cara Black, Zizardhab Cara Black, Zizardhab Caralle Defeni, France, and Gabriela Navratilova (3). Czech Republic. Arabel Medina Garripues, Sana, and Di-derive Caralle Caral

ABN AMRO

Sunday At Ahoy' Stadium Rotterdam, Netherlar Rotterdam, Netherlands
Purse: \$1 million (Intl. Gold)
Surface: Hard-Indoor)
Singles
Finals
Roger Federer, Switzerland,(1) def. Ivan
Ljubicic, Croatia, 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

Brazil Open

Saturday At Costa do Sa

At Costa do Saupe Purses Salvadon Paralieries) Surface Clay-Outdoor Singles Rafael Nadal (6), Spaid def. Alberto Mar-tin, Spain, 6-0, 6-7 (C), Spaid def. Alberto Mar-Doubles Final

Frantisek Cermak and Leos Friedl (3), Czech Republic, def. Jose Acasuso and Igna-cio Gonzalez King, Argentina, 6-4, 6-4,

Deals

Saturday's transactions BASEBALL American Lear

BASEBALL
American League
TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with
RHP Frank Francisco, RHP Agustin Montero
and RHP Nick Regillio on one-year contracts
and OF Chris Richlard on a minor league contract

tract.

National League

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with
LHP Mark McLemore, OF Willy Taveras and
INF Tommy Whiteman on one-year con-

LIP MARK MUNICHEMAN OF TOTALL
INF TOMMY Whiteman OF TOTALL
INF TOMMY WHITEMAN OF TOTAL

NATIONAL FOOTBAL League
CLEVELAND REMOVINS—Named
Melvin delerisave line coach,
even of the coach of

Sexson reports early to camp to discuss DUI

The Associated Press

Richie Sexson checked into the Seattle Mariners' spring training camp two days early Saturday, knowing he'd have to explain a Feb. 5 drunken driving citation.

"It's an unfortunate situation," said Sex-son, who has pleaded not guilty, "I'm disappointed, No. 1 in myself. You want to apolo gize to every fan you've ever had, every fan you're going to have or fans you're going to

Sevson who signed a \$50 million



four-year contract, was stopped a quarter-mile from his home near Vancouver, Wash. That day, he had been at his brother's home, where he had two beers with a

chicken dinner.

Returning home however a Clark County sheriff's deputy stopped Sexson after es-timating his speed at 50 mph in a 35-mph zone, though Sexson ultimately wasn't cited for speeding.

The deputy smelled a "strong odor of in-toxicants," according to a sheriff's report, and noticed empty beer bottles in the vehi-cle. Sexson said the bottles were left a week earlier after another visit to his broth-

He received a citation for suspicion of DUI, Sexson said, because he refused to take a portable breath test at the scene.

"If you refuse a Breathalyzer [test] in the field, automatically they can charge vou with driving under the influence." Sexson said

Sexson said he was transported to the sheriff's office, taking two breath tests about 45 minutes later. Both tests registered under Washington's legal threshold for intoxication.

At Fort Myers, Fla., Edgar Renteria spent his first day at Boston's camp. The new Red Sox shortstop made the last out for the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series, when he grounded to pitcher Keith Foulke and ended Boston's four-game sweep.



New Boston Red Sox shortstop Edgar Renteria fields a grounder after reporting to spring training camp a day early on Saturday in Ft. Myers. Fla.

Renteria, who replaced Orlando Cabrera, plans to be on hand when his new teammates get their championship rings.

"I'm going to go through the line for mine, too, and then I'll say, 'Where's my Renteria said, apparently joking.

At Vero Beach, Fla., pitcher Brad Penny didn't throw during the Los Angeles Dodgers' first workout. Penny, sustained a rare nerve injury to his right biceps that sidelined him late last season, met with team staff to plan his schedule.

"We are shooting for a bullpen session for Brad sometime early to midweek, manager Jim Tracy said.

Penny probably would have been ready to throw off the mound had he not spent the last two weeks fighting the flu. "I'll be ready for the season by April," he

said. "I'm excited about it At Jupiter, Fla., Florida Marlins right-hander A.J. Burnett was about to begin his first bullpen session of spring training when he shouted a friendly warn ing to fans standing behind the 8-foot-high backston

"Heads up," he said. "Last year I nearly crushed somebody. You guys look out

Unlike a year ago, when Burnett hit a female spectator on the shoulder with an errant practice pitch, he threw for 10 minutes without sailing a single fastball over

Manager Jack McKeon emerged from the clubhouse in the morning to begin his 57th year in professional baseball and was greeted by a phalanx of photographers. "Get my good side, please," he said.

Right-hander Juan Cruz didn't report to the Athletics on Saturday with the rest of the pitchers and catchers. The team said he was taking a few extra days in his native

Dominican Republic and would be in

Cruz lost to the A's in salary arbitration Tuesday. He will get \$600,000 instead of the \$860,000 he had requested. Acquired from Atlanta in the Tim Hudson trade in December, Cruz was 6-2 with a 2.75 ERA in 50 relief outings last season, when he made \$370,000

About a half dozen Japanese reporters showed up in Phoenix to speak to new Oakland pitcher Keiichi Yabu, but Yabu wasn't due to arrive in Arizona until late Saturday.

In Tampa, Fla., Hideki Matsui took batting practice a day after arriving for spring training and said he wouldn't mind wraping up a contract extension with the New York Yankees before opening day.

"I'd like to stay a Yankee as long as possible. That's my desire right now," Matsui said through a translator at New York's minor league complex.

In Fort Myers, Fla., Boston reliever Mike Timlin understands why Yankees manager Joe Torre won't bring a lot of regulars for the March 7 split-squad game at the Red Sox.

"It's not a rivalry thing. He's not dishing us by any means," Timlin said. "Joe's not that way. He's building the best team that he possibly can with what he has.

At Bradenton, Fla., Pittsburgh left-hander Oliver Perez has not pitched during the first two days of workouts because of stiffness in his throwing shoulder. The shoulder tightened from sleeping the wrong way Thursday night.

"Everything is fine," Perez said. "I'm just a little tired in the shoulder.

At Tucson, Ariz., Colorado pitcher Shawn Chacon worked out, happy to be back in the starting rotation after becoming the first pitcher in major league history with 20 saves and an ERA over 7.00 "I don't regret the decision to switch last said Chacon, who had went 1-9 with a 7.11 ERA and nine blown saves. "I tried it, did it, and it didn't work out for either side. I'm excited to get back to something I'm familiar with, something I established myself at."

Giants' closer Nen opts for retirement after setback

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Robb Nen tried as hard as anyone to extend his career as one of basehall's best closers, working countless hours to rehabilitate his troublesome shoulder after three operations

Following yet another setback, the former Giants pitcher has decided to retire.

"He tried and got close again, and fell back down," San Francisco trainer Stan Conte said Sunday, a day after speaking to Nen about the decision. "It's been so frustrating. I'm surprised he lasted this long Nen, who had 43 saves and a

2.20 ERA in 2002 to help the Giants reach the World hasn't pitched in more than two years. He played through the pain during the playoffs that season, knowing he needed surgery and that he was risking further damage.

The Giants fell six outs short of a championship. Nen has said he has no regrets. What he did to stay on the

field in 2002, he jeopardized his career," lefty reliever Jason Christiansen said Sunday. "He

MIR briefs put us. above him-re Every-was here in 2002

has so much respect for what he did. If it hadn't been for him, we wouldn't have gone to the World Series."

The 35-year-old Nen, a tenacious right-hander who spent his final five seasons with the Giants. had been hopeful of giving it another shot this season - even if he had to earn a non-roster invite to spring training with another club. The Colorado Rockies were one of the teams monitoring his progress to see if he was healthy.

Still, Nen hasn't ruled out a re-turn down the road if his arm were to somehow recover, though that seems unlikely. Nen has 314 career saves in 10 major league seasons and is one of 18 pitchers to reach the 300 mark

"He was one of the best players, people and teammates I've ever seen," Giants assistant general manager Ned Colletti said. "He really died on the sword for the club and his teammates. As much as we missed him closing games. we really missed his presence

Nen's rotator cuff is torn - perhaps as much as 75 percent - but surgery to completely renair it has a very low success rate. And Nen doesn't want to go through another operation.

Roone denies Canseco claims

PEORIA, Ariz. - Seattle Mariners second baseman Bret Boone on Saturday denied an allegation by former slugger Jose Canseco, his best-selling book, that Boone used steroids four years

"I don't know the nerson He doesn't know me. I've never had a conversation with him. As far as I'm concerned, it's absolutely ridiculous," Boone said after reporting to Seattle's spring training camp.

one chapter of Canseco's book, he described playing for the Anaheim Angels during a spring training game against the Mariners in 2001 and marveling at Boone's physique.

"I hit a double, and when I got out there to second base, I got a good look at Boone," Canseco wrote. "I couldn't believe my eyes. He was enormous."

'What have you been doing?' " 'Shhh.' he said. 'Don't tell anyhody?

'Whispers like that were a sign that you were part of the club the bond of a secret code or handshake," wrote Canseco, who admitted to steroid use and said he introduced other major leaguers to the drug.

Canseco went on to claim that Boone "used his hulking new body to go crazy that season Boone was an MVP candidate in 2001, posting career highs with a 331 average, 37 home runs and 141 RBIs.

"Look at the guy saying it," Boone responded, "Look at what he's doing to make a dollar, speculating to make money."

In the week since transcripts of the book were released, several news outlets have documented that Canseco never reached second base in spring training games against the Mariners in 2001

Angels go easy on starter Escobar

TEMPE, Ariz. - Right-hander Kelvim Escobar, the Angels' most consistent starter last season. about 10 days during training camp because of tightness in his

Escobar went 11-12 with an ERA of 3.93 last season, his first with the Angels after signing a three-year, \$18.75 million deal in the offseason. He led the team with 191 strikeouts, good for fourth in the American League.

Piniella misses workout to be with ailing father

ST. PETERSBURG. Fla. Tampa Bay Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella missed Sunday's spring training workout to be with his ailing 86-year-old father, who is hospitalized with a heart condition.

Bench coach John McLaren ran the morning session for pitchers and catchers.

"Our prayers are with him," McLaren said. "He just said take over and get our workout in, which we did. We just hope everything's OK on his dad's end '

Also, pitchers Hideo Nomo and Denny Neagle, both attempting comebacks from injuries, threw for the second time since camp opened last week.

Hawks' Smith slams Suns' quest for sweep

Phoenix's Nash, Richardson win events

BY JOHN MARSHALL The Associated Press

DENVER — Josh Smith went retro to win the NBA's dunk contest.

Smith scored a 50 on his first dunk of the finals wearing the jessy of former Atlanta star Dominique Wilkins, then had another perfect score on his second dunk in his own Hawks jersey to beat Phoenix's Amare Stoudemire on Saturday night.

"He didn't know I was going to do that, but I was going to do a dunk symbolizing what he did in his previous years," said Smith, Atlanta's first round pick in 2004 after making the jump from high school. "He was real excited and shocked that I would do that."

Wilkins, a two-time dunk champion, handed the mantel and his jersey over just before Smith's first dunk of the final round, and the rookle didn't disappoint. Looking a whole lot like 'Nique — other than being left-handed — Smith leaned in for a windmill dunk that left the backboard and rim shaking and earned him a perfect score.

Smith switched back to his No. 5 Hawks jersey and earned another 50 off a reverse-spin 360 — ala Vince Carter in the 2000 contest.

"I think the whole jersey thing kind of made everybody a little nervous," said Wilkins, who won the contest in 1985 and 1990. "Like I said, he shocked me with

the contest in 1985 and 1990.

"Like I said, he shocked me with
that one. That was outstanding."

But it wasn't the only outstanding part.

Though former Nuggets player Chris Andersen drew some boos after needing eight tries to finish his first dunk, Smith and Stoudemire got the crowd going with their second dunks of the first round

Smith started things off, earning a 50 by taking a pass from Denver's Kenyon Martin, who was seated in a chair, and throwing it down with a vicious windmill dunk after soaring over Martin.

Stoudemire did him one better

on the next dunk, passing the ball off the backboard to teammate Suns teammate Steve Nash, who headed the ball back to Stoudemire for a one-handed 360 dunk.

"That was a good dunk by Amare and Steve, and I knew I had to pull something out of my hat to get by and win," Smith said. Smith did and it prevented the Suns from completing a sweep on All-Star Saturday.

Phoenix's Quentin Richardson won the three-point shooting contest, making his final nine shots of the finals after opening with an airball to edge Philadelphia's Kyle Korver by one point.

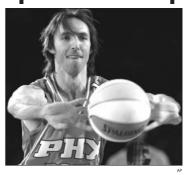
Richardson appeared to have no chance at catching Korver after missing his first four shots, but he hit four of five money balls — worth two points each — and had the strong finish to close with 19 points.

"In the first round, I felt like I was shooting a little too hard so the first shot [in the second round] I tried to shoot softer and it got a little too soft," Richardson said. "Then I got it going."

Denver's Voshon Lenard, who hasn't played this season since tearing his Achilles' tendon in the season opener, had the final chance to pass Richardson but couldn't come through. The leader after the first round with 17 points, Lenard needed to make all five shots in the final rack, but missed the first one and finished with 16 points.

Nash won the skills challenge, completing the final dribbling, passing and shooting course nearly 12 seconds faster than Denver's Earl Boykins.

Nash was the leader after the first round at 31.4 seconds, then completed the course in 25.8 the second time around. His only mis-



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash passes the ball on his way to winning the skills challenge competition in Denver on Saturday night.

take in the final was missing his first chest pass, but he got the second one and breezed through the rest of the skills after Boykins needed four tries to hit a

rest of the skins after Boykins needed four tries to hit a three-pointer.

Shawn Marion, Diana Taurasi and Dan Majerle made it 3-for-3 for Phoenix by winning the shooting stars competition, making shots from six spots in just 28 seconds. Majerle capped the competition by hitting his second shot from halfcourt to help Phoenix beat Denver by 16 seconds.

"It's fun — we even got Thun-

der Dan back in the equation," Nash said. "It's great for the organization."

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Young trio helping ease the pain of brawl

BY TIM POVTAK

ORLANDO, Fla. — Images from The Brawl in Detroit are beginning to fade, but images of LeBron James, Amare Stoudemire and Dwyane Wade are coming clearly into focus now.

The three newest and youngest All-Stars already are reshaping

The first half of this NBA season was scarred by the ugliness of the well-chronicled fight between Indiana Pacers players and Detroit Pis-

ana Pacers players and Detroit Pistons fans, but also unfolding were three rapidly rising teams with three soaring young stars. Stoudemire, the Rookie of the Year in 2003, has helped take the Phoenix Suns to a fie with the San

Antonio Spurs for the most victories in the league so far, and he is the leading scorer for the highest-scoring team the NBA has seen in 10 years.

James lived up to his hype last season and became Rookie of the

season and became Rookie of the Year in 2004, but he also has improved dramatically in his second season, turning the Cleveland Cavaliers into Eastern Conference contenders. Wade, also in his second sea-

son, has used Miami Heat teammate Shaquille O'Neal as a springboard, carving his own niche to create championship hopes. Unlike so many past young

stars, they already are winning big. Wade is just 23, Stoudemire 22 and James 20. "We're good for the NBA," Stou-

demire said.

The Brawl in November will

The Brawl in November will

have some residual effects on the league, which has instituted tighter security measures near the court and restricted alcohol sales, but only Indiana sustained real eved 2005 contenders, they have been reduced to a sub-500 team after a season-long suspension for Ron Artest and shorter suspensions for forward Jermaine O'Neal and guard Stephen Jackson. They are scrambling to re-

Along with the Suns and Cavs, the Seattle SuperSonics also have established themselves as serious contenders after not even making the playoffs last spring. Unlike the other two, the Sonics have done it without a major personnel move, surprising everyone by riding the outside shooting of Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis.

To no one's surprise, the addition of O'Neal and the emergence of Wade have created unprecedented excitement about the Heat in Miami.

They are expected to add Alonzo Mourning to the roster after the break, giving them another frontcourt force. With the veteran cast of O'Neal, Mourning and Christian Laettner, the Heat will have the top three picks of the 1992 NBA Draft.

The Orlando Magic have used the first half to re-establish themselves as a winning franchise, erasing the image of last season's embarrassing finish as the worst team in the league.

The return to all-star form of Grant Hill, after missing most of the previous four seasons recoverleft ankle, has become the feel-good story of the NBA this season. His return has put the Magic on course for one of the biggest one-year, home-court turnarounds in league history. Disappointing starts in Denver

and Minnesota led to the firings of coaches Jeff Bzdelik and Flip Saunders, respectively. Saunders had the Timberwolves in the Western Conference Finals last spring – raising expectations — but internal bickering over contracts has downed them this season.

Vince Carter has used the past month to re-establish his reputation after being traded from the Toronto Raptors to the New Jersey Nets. Carter had soured on his Canadian team, virtually shutting down until the rade happened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets, hoppened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets, hoppened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets, hoppened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets, hoppened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets, hoppened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets hoppened with the Nets has been all the Nets has he will be not have a like the Nets has he will be not have the nets have the Nets has he will be not have the Nets have

side and Phil Jackson as his coach, Kobe Bryant lost some of his luster in the first half. A year ago, he was in a legal battle, which he eventually won. Turning the Lakers into big winners again might be more difficult.

Bryant still is among the NBA's leading scorers, but he no longer is considered one of its most feared players. Without the supporting cast he once had, Bryant has struggled to carry the Lakers. The entire Atlantic Division

has done a disappearing act, proving that one or two established stars can't make a winner by themselves. Allen Iverson is leading the league in scoring again, but his Philadelphia 76ers are a game under .500. Stephon Marbury keeps putting up great statistics, but the New York Knicks are going nowhere. Paul Pierce is dangerous and the Boston Celtics are leading the division, but they are only one game above .500.

Power forward Karl Malone and Pacers guard Reggie Miller used the first half to announce their retirements from the NBA after long and wonderful careers. Neither, though, ever won a championship.

Miller, now in his 18th season, scored 36 points for the Pacers in his last game before the break, proving he still has a game. Man one had hoped to play this season with one of the contenders, but after 19 years of playing through injuries, he was physically unable to play.

The Houston Rockets, after obtaining Tracy McGrady from the Magic this past summer in a blockbuster trade, started slowly but have closed rapidly, winning the final eight games before the

McGrady spent much of the first month trying to fit his game around Yao Ming, but he now has begun asserting himself again, and the Rockets are winning

The Spurs, as usual, quietly have positioned themselves as one of the favorites going into the second half. So have the defending champion Detroit Pistons. Although neither team has the flash of the Suns, both are known for outstanding team defense.

A giant headache

Air Force can't cope with Utah's 7-footer; Navy edges Lehigh; Army loses 21st game

he Associated Pres.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The winning streak marches on and the conference title belongs to Utah. Pretty soon, it will be tournament time and the Utes look like a team that could do some damage there, as well.

Andrew Bogut scored 20 of his 23 points in the second half Saturday to lead No. 14 Utah to its 18th straight victory, a 65-56 defeat of Air Force that clinched the Mountain West Conference championship.

"To have a day where you accomplish the main goal of your

Service Academies

the main goal of your season, I'd say it ranks right up there at the top," first-year Utes coach Ray Giacoletti said.

been the most impressive victory of a streak which began Dec. 17, the Utes (23-3, 11-0) snapped Air Force's 24-game home winning streak. Utah needs three more victories to become the first team to run the table in the 6-year-old MVC. Either way, they are well on track for their 26th NCAA tournament appearance.

"Our number-one goal was winning a conference championship," Giacoletti said. "We said if we do that, we'll stop and put another goal on the table. We'll probably have a chance to look at that tomorrow."

Air Force (15-10, 6-4), ranked 104 in the latest RPI ratings, lost a chance at the quality victory it dearly needed to make the NCAA tournament for the second straight year. The Falcons, who came in with a half-game lead over Wyoming for second place, now fight for seeding for the conference tournament, which they very well

may have to win if they are to head back to the NCAAs.

"Right now, the postseason isn't necessarily important to us," first-year coach Chris Mooney said. "We've just got to concentrate on (Monday's opponent) BYU and the road trip" that follows.

Jacob Burtschi had 15 points for the Falcons, but none in the second half when Utah's defense firmed up and Bogut started taking over on both ends of the floor.

The 7-foot Australia native came one rebound short of padding his nation-leading total of 17 double-doubles. He scored eight points during a 10-0 run that gave Utah a 36-32 lead and set the tone to open the sec-

The Utes stayed more patient in getting him the ball, and when they did, Bogut typically had his defender sealed and made an easy spin move for a bucket.

"It's very frustrating," Mooney said.
"You're not going to hold him to six points,
we realize that. But when the ball got into
him, it was too easy."

On defense, meanwhile, Bogut altered shots and generally frustrated Air Force, which by using its typical slowdown style played right into the big man's hands.

played right into the big man's hands.

Trailing 53-45 with about 2 minutes left,
Bogut altered Nick Welch's shot, then
blocked Dan Nwaelele's attempt after the
rebound. It was a typical sequence for the
Utes, who allowed only three field goals

over the first 15 minutes of the second half.
"I haven't been part of a team that's
played this kind of team defense before,"
guard Marc Jackson said. "That's why
we've had this kind of success."

Bryant Markson scored 15 points and Jackson had 12 for Utah, whose winning streak is second only to Illinois' 27.



Utah's Andrew Bogut rips a rebound away from Air Force's Dan Nwaelele during the second half of Saturday's game at the Air Force Academy, No. 14 Utah beat Air Force 65-56.

Welch also had 15 points for the Falcons, whose last home loss came March 3, 2003, to Utah

Navy 76, Lehigh 75: Matt Fannin scored 16 points and Taij Mathews had 1s as Navy (8-17, 4s Patriot League) held off a comeback by Lehigh (13-12, 7-5) at Bethlehem, Pa. Corey Johnson had 13 points, George O'Garro scored 11 and David Hooper added 10 for Navy. Jose Olivero scored 23 for Lehigh.

Navy held Lehigh without a basket for 5½ minutes while building a 71-61 lead with 3:39 to play. Navy's lead was down to

74-73 when Fannin shook loose for a layup with 31 left.

Bucknell 69, Army 55: At West Point, N.Y., Charles Lee scored 22 points for Bucknell (18-8), which used runs of 18-2 in the first half and 24-9 in the second to dominate Army (3-21).

Lee hit two three-pointers as Bucknell turned a 13-8 deficit into a 26-15 lead with 3-42 left in the first half, then added six points as the Bison expanded a six-point halftime lead to 54-33 with 9-01 to play.

Matt Bell led Army with 23 points and Grant Carter and Jarell Brown had 11 each.

Kentucky rolls over Bulldogs for 50th 20-win season

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Freshman center Randolph Morris scored 17 points to lead seven players in double figures and No. 3 Kentucky reached 20 victories for a record 50th time with a 94-78 thrashing of Mississippi State Saturday night.

Kentucky (20-3, 11-1 Southeastern Conference) posted its highest point total of the season in posting its milestone 20th victory. The Wildcats' 50 20-win seasons is three better than runner-up North Carolina.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 15 points and Patrick Sparks added 14 points and made four three-pointers for Kentucky, which has won 19 straight games following a loss. The Wildcats lost 73-61 at South Carolina on Tuesday.

Kentucky forced Missippi State (18-8, 6-6) into 23 turnovers and limited forward Lawrence Roberts, who entered the game second in the SEC in scoring and first in rebounding, to seven points and three rebounds

No. 4 North Carolina 88, Clemson 56: Jawad Williams scored 17 points, sixth-man Marvin Williams added 14 and the Tar Heels improved to 51-0 at home against Clemson.



Sean May finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Tar Heels (22-3, 10-2), who moved into a first-place tie with Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Sharrod Ford led Clemson (12-13, 2-10) with 13 points.

No. 8 Oklahoma St. 85, Texas Tech 56: John Lucas III scored 25 points and JamesOn Curry had 10 of his 15 in the second half as the Cowboys moved into a tie for first place in the Big 12 with

Curry scored 10 points during a 14-2 run that helped Oklahoma State (20-3, 10-2) pull away early in the second half.

Martin Zeno had 19 points for visiting Texas Tech (16-7, 8-4).

No. 13 Gonzaga 75, San Francisco 73: Adam Morrison scored 28 points, including a jumper with less than a second remaining, as host Gonzaga (21-4, 11-2 West Coast Conference) avenged an earlier loss to the Dons (14-11, 5-7) and moved 2½ games ahead of Saint Mary's in the race for the regular season championship. No. 15 Washington 68, Washington St. 55: Tre Simmons scored 16 points to lead Washington (21-4, 11-3 Pac-10) to victory at Washington State (10-13, 5-9). Washington has won 14 of the past 18 against Washington State.

No. 16 Alabama 87, South Carolina 68: Kennedy Winston and Earnest Shelton combined to hit seven three-pointers in the second half and Alabama (21-4, 10-2 Southeastern Conference) remained unbeaten at home and won for the 10th time in 11 games.

Carlos Powell had 17 points for the Gamecocks (14-9, 6-6), who were coming off an upset of No. 3 Kentucky.

No. 18 Connecticut 85, Rutgers 63: Charlie Villanueva and Josh Boone each scored 21 points and visiting Connecticut (17-6, 9-3 Big East) used an early 26-5 run to take control against Rutgers (8-15, 2-11).

No. 19 Pacific 73, UTEP 66: David Doubley scored 21 points and hit a key three-pointer with 1:18 left to lead Pacific (22-2) to its 18th straight victory.

Omar Thomas had 21 points and 12 rebounds for UTEP (20-7), which lost for the fourth time in seven games.

No. 21 Oklahoma 69, Kansas

St. 68: Drew Lavender's improbable basket at the buzzer capped a 29-point outing as Oklahoma (19-6, 8-4 Big 12) snapped a three-game road losing streak. Clent Stewart stole David God-

bold's inbounds pass and then hit the second of two free throws with 4.5 seconds to go, putting Kansas State (13-10, 3-9) up 68-67.

The 5-foot-7 Lavender tore downcourt and flipped the ball up from the baseline with less than a second left. Time expired as the ball hit the rim, bounced twice — each time just missing an Oklahoma player's hands — and felt brough to extend the Wildcats' losing streak to six games.

Cartier Martin had 22 points

for Kansas State.

No. 22 Maryland 92, Virginia

No. 22 Maryland 92, Virginia 89 (20T): John Gilchrist had 22 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer with 1:12 left in the second overtime, for the Terra-

Virginia had a chance to tie it with 18 seconds to go in the second overtime, but Elton Brown missed two free throws, capping a 3-for-13 showing from the line. The Terrapins (16-8, 7-6 Atlan-

tic Coast Conference) twice saw the game extended when Virginia made three-pointers on its final possession. Freshman Sean Singletary had 23 points and nine assists for the Cavaliers (13-11, 4-9).

No. 23 Charlotte 86, Tulane 67: Eddie Basden scored had 27 points and 14 rebounds, leading

Charlotte over Tulane.
The 49ers (19-4, 10-2 Conference USA) won their fifth straight game to tie No. 12 Louisville for

first place in the conference. The Green Wave (9-14, 3-9) lost for the fourth time in five games. Curtis Withers scored 26 points to match his average over the last four games. Brendan Plavich

scored 14.
Quincy Davis led Tulane with
14 points, Taylor Rochestie had
12 and Matt Wheaton 11.

No. 24 Cincinnati 72, UAB 69: Jason Maxiell had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead flu-stricken Cincinnati

The Bearcats (20-6, 8-4 Conference USA) had a nine-point lead cut to one in the final minute, but Armein Kirkland clinched it by making two free throws with 9.9 seconds left. UAB's Caldwell "Squeaky" Johnson missed the rim with a long three-pointer just before the burger.

Donnell Taylor and Marvett McDonald each had 16 points for Alabama-Birmingham (16-9, 6-6), which has lost four in a row for the first time since 2001-02.

Streaking Iowa St. stuns No. 2 Kansas

By DOUG THEKER The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. - The Iowa State Cyclones are well past their humble goal of stopping an embarrassing six-game losing streak

Now they're beating ranked teams on the road and riding a season-saving, seven-game winning streak. And after opening the Big 12 season 0-5, they're ready to settle for nothing less than an NCAA tournament bid.

Curtis Stinson scored 29 points, including the game-winner in the lane with 5.1 seconds left in overtime, and the Cyclones pulled off their most improbable victory yet, stunning No. 2 Kansas 63-61 on Saturday. Stinson had all seven of Iowa State's points in the

The end of the Javhawks' 32-game conference home winning streak could eventually cost Kansas a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

"Beating the No. 2 team at

said Stinson, whose injured left hand kept him off the floor for the opening 4:25 of the game

"I hurt it in practice," the husky sophomore guard said. "I hit it again tonight I am a comnetitor and I am going to play hard."

The Javhawks (20-3, 10-2) erased a nine-point deficit in the last 2 minutes of regulation. But all game long they had no answer for Stinson or Iowa State's aggressive 2-3 zone and they finished with a season-low point total.

Stinson hit a short jumper over Jeff Langford for the game-win-

"He is great," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We had no answer for Curtis Stinson.

Five days after losing by one point in double overtime at Texas Tech, the Jayhawks shot only 34.5 percent and were 4-for-23 from beyond the three-point arc.

"Offensively, we didn't have any rhythm at all," Self said. "We were out of sync all day. These guys have performed at a high



Iowa State guard Curtis Stinson, right, battles Kansas center C.J. Giles for a loose ball during the second half of Saturday's game at Lawrence, Kan. Stinson scored 29 points as Iowa State won 63-61.

level for a long time but today we were as poor as we can be offensively

The Cyclones (15-8, 7-5) have beaten Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Kansas - all ranked teams - in the streak and won three conference road games after not winning a league game away from home for almost four

"I thought my kids played their hearts out the whole game." Cvclones coach Wayne Morgan said. "They didn't give up and they kept fighting. Not a lot of teams come in here and win.

Stinson's winning shot came right after Langford missed two free throws at the other end. Langford also missed a 17-footer at the

overtime at Illinois earlier in the

season, trailed by just two points

with 41/2 minutes to play before a

14-5 run finished them off

Michigan St. ruins a party for Purdue's Gene Keady

BY MICHAEL MAROT The Associated Press

WEST LAFAVETTE Ind . Michigan State coach Tom Izzo thought Gene Keady deserved a fitting tribute Saturday.

So he told his players to use Keady's approach - play hard, play focused, play with passion. The Spartans delivered.

Alan Anderson and Maurice Ager each scored 12 points and No. 11 Michigan State limited Purdue to 36.8 percent shooting as the Spartans rolled to a 68-57 tory on a day Keady's former play-

ers honored him at halftime. 'I told our players last night that, in all honesty, this was going to be an emotional day for me, too, because I love what he has done for the game of basketball," Izzo said. "So I told them "The best compliment you can give him is to play your butt off."

Michigan State (19-4, 10-2 Big Ten) has won five straight and nine of 10, the only loss in that stretch coming to No. 1 Illinois.

The Spartans are 5-1 in Big Ten road games, limiting opponents to

37 percent shooting and fewer than 60 points a game. Izzo was not entirely pleased

with what he saw in the final 4 minutes, although he seemed to understand how a 20-point lead could be halved since this was Keady's next-to-last home game and dozens of ex-players, coaches and managers lined the court named for Keady in a halftime ceremony

Even former Spartans coach Jud Heathcote, one of Keady's closest friends, watched from behind the Michigan State bench.

"I don't think we fell backward today because we were playing a team I thought was at its emotional peak," Izzo said. "But we didn't take a step forward."

For Keady, it was another tough day in his farewell season. In his 25th year at Purdue, Keady adopted a throwback approach.

Dressed in a black suit and gold tie, he flailed his arms at officials looking for calls, barked at players repeatedly and occasionally pointed out where they should have been positioned on the floor. He even drew a technical foul in the second half and then - characteristically - slammed his jacket to the floor.

It was easily Keady's most demonstrative game of the season. Afterward, he again demonstrated the toughness that has de-

fined his career by making no apologies.

"I've never liked this crew," he said of the officials. "It's nothing personal, but we've never had a good relationship or whatever you want to call it. I got fed up with the calls not been made con-sistently.... Of course the coat went off and I should have gotten two technicals. I should have been gone.' That was the least of the prob-

lems for Purdue (7-16, 3-9).

For top-ranked Illinois, the count is 27

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa - The challenges for Illinois started early. from the moment the Illini got out "We had no hot water this

morning at the hotel," coach Bruce Weber said. "That was brutal It got no easier after that

Top-ranked Illinois had to overcome foul problems, a determined opponent and a subpar game by leading scorer Luther Head to remain unbeaten with a 75-65 win over Iowa on Saturday

Deron Williams and Dee Brown each scored 18 points for the Illini (27-0, 13-0 Big Ten), who turned back repeated threats the short-handed

"Stuff like this happens all year," Williams said. "It seems like every game, somebody steps up and does something at the right time

The Illini had plenty of that happen Saturday. James Augustine came up with 13 points and eight rebounds, Head made a key steal late in the game and 7-foot-2 Nick Smith hit a three-pointer in the final minute to preserve a victory that kept several streaks intact.

In addition to a 27-game winning streak. Illinois has won 23 straight conference games and 14 championship by winning their next two games, at home against Northwestern and Purdue

on at Ohio State on March 6. Indiana in 1976 was the last unbeaten team in Big Ten play.

"If we take care of business at home, now we can clinch the outright title, then go see what hap-pens at Ohio State," Weber said. But that's a long way off. Right now, we're worried about the bus ride home and Northwestern.

A gritty effort wasn't quite enough for Iowa (16-9, 4-8), which fell to 1-4 since leading scorer Pierre Pierce was kicked off the team for disciplinary viola-

Batt Credit, Mi

consecutive games on the road. They would clinch the Big Ten Illinois finishes the regular sea-

Every Illinois starter had at three fouls and forward Roger Powell had four, which limited him to eight points after he had made all 10 of his shots against Penn State in the previ ous game. The Illini were outre-

> "Good team, good players they find a way to make plays Iowa coach Steve Alford said. "They don't feel the pressure. I think they're as good as anyone in the country.

> > Military

bounded 36-21. Head shot 1-for-7

and they still got it done.

Greets, Bad Greeks, Mar Problems, No Cresht, Rad

Problem, P

while scoring only seven points



THE REPORT OF THE PARTY AND TH

Middleweight Hopkins defends title 20th time

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Bernard Hopkins never claimed he was the prettiest fighter, iust the best. Even at the age of 40, he was good enough Saturday night to reach another milestone and win another fight.

Hopkins overcame his usual slow start to dominate Howard Eastman, winning a lopsided 12-round decision to join some of hoving's elite in the record books by making his 20th successful middleweight title de-

"This was very special, personal to Bernard Hopkins," Hopkins said. "I believe it will be documented in boxing history as years and centuries go on

In a fight that was booed by many at the Staples Center, Hopkins won easily on all three ringside scorecards to remain unbeaten in the last 11 years. He did it by moving and staying focused and being brutally efficient with his punches.

The crowd of 12,828 might not have appreciated it enough, but Hopkins' new pro-

"It's unheard of." said Oscar De La Hova who lost to Honkins in his 19th title defense. "I don't think we'll ever see it

The fight was the first for Hopkins since turning 40, an age when most fighters have long since left the ring. But he appeared to be the fresher fighter in the later rounds as he used an unorthodox but effective style to win the fight.

One judge had the fight 119-110 in favor of Hopkins, while a second had it 117-111 The third judge had the fight 116-112, the same score as The Associated Press.

"Bernard Hopkins is a true professional," said Roy Jones Jr., who was watching at ringside.

It was the first middleweight title fight in Los Angeles since Sugar Ray Robinson and Gene Fullmer fought to a draw in 1960, and though it was lacking in excitement at times, there was no question who won the fight.

No question that is, except from Eastman, who complained he should have been given more credit for pursuing Hopkins much of the fight.

"He ran from me the whole night," Eastman said. "He was the champion fighting in his own backvard but I dictated the pace. He didn't fight like a champ. He never hurt me."

Eastman, a British fighter, has never lost in the United Kingdom. And he's never won outside of it losing a title fight to William Joppy in 2001 and then losing his second title shot to Hopkins.

Eastman (40-2) threw far more punches than Hopkins (46-2-1), but many of them found air as Hopkins ducked, moved and often made Eastman pay by coming back with a counterpunch.

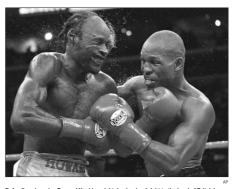
Ringside punch stats showed Hopkins was much more efficient while Eastman was much busier. Hopkins landed 148 of 346 nunches while Eastman landed 82 of

"They wanted to see [Arturo] Gatti-[Mickey] Ward," Hopkins said. "I don't fight that way. I did it in spurts."

Hopkins started cautiously as usual, but Eastman was even more cautious, barely throwing a punch in the first round and drawing boos from the crowd at the Sta-

By the fourth round, though, the crowd was booing the champion as Hopkins moved backward around the ring, occasionally posing as if he was going to throw a punch, but throwing only a few

The fight finally heated up late in the



efending champion Bernard Hopkins, right, lands a hard right to the head of Britain's Howard Eastman in the sixth round of their WBC middleweight championship bout.

fifth round - the same round Eastman had predicted he would stop Hopkins — when the challenger landed a big right hand to Hopkins' head. Fighting out of his corner, Honkins responded by landing a stinging left and the two traded punches as the round came to a close

"You've taken his best shot now," East-man's corner told him. "That's all he's got." Though Honkins seemed to be getting better as the fight went on, Eastman was still throwing punches with abandon and was giving the champion a fight. In the cor-ner after the 10th round, trainer Bouie

Fisher urged Hopkins to pick up the pace. "Get this guy out of there, get this guy out of there." Fisher said, "You've let him hang around too long

On the undercard, Jermain Taylor made case for himself as the future of the middleweight division — and a possible contender for Hopkins — by stopping Daniel Edouard in the third round with a series of devastating shots to the head.

Taylor showed that he isn't far from a possible title shot himself by taking apart Edouard apart before referee Ray Corona stopped the fight at 2:26 of the third round The 2000 Olympic bronze medalist re-

mained undefeated and scored his 17th knockout in 23 fights in an impressive performance that had the crowd at Staples Center on its feet cheering "I believe I'm ready for Hopkins," Tay-

lor said. "I'm a fighter

Taylor not only landed a lot of punches, but landed them with efficiency as he dominated the fight and handed Edouard (16-1-2) his first loss as a pro.

Midway through the third round. Taylor landed two right hands to the head and then followed Edouard across the ring. He trapped him in the neutral corner and was landing punches at will against the defenseless Haitian when the referee moved between the two fighters and called the bout to an end.

Austria's Gruber wins super-G; Miller gets fourth

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCH-EN, Germany — Christoph Gru-ber made up for his disappointing performance in the world ski championships with his first World Cup victory in four years. Gruber, who failed to qualify

for the Austrian downhill squad at the worlds in Bormio and



then went out in the first leg of the giant slalom. finally came through

Sunday. He negotiated the soft snow and variable visibility to win the super giant slalom in 1 minute 18 18 seconds American Bode Miller, world

champ in the super-G and downhill, was fourth, 0.21 seconds off the pace. But it was enough for him to replace Hermann Maier atop the super-G standings. Miller now leads the discipline rankings with 375 points, one more than Majer As for Gruber, he finished 0.01

seconds ahead of second-place Didier Defago of Switzerland. Gruber's last victory, also by

0.01, came in 2001 on this slope over Maier

"This was a difficult day for me because my two downhill races here Friday and Saturday were not so good. I was 17th and 16th, Gruber said. "I was hoping to do some good downhills after Bormio, which was not so successful for me. So I wasn't very motivated when I woke up this morning.

The surprise of the day came 20-year-old Bourgue, who clocked 1:18.22 for third place, becoming only the third Canadian man in history to climb a World Cup super-G podi-

The last time was 17 years ago when Felix Belczyck won in 1988 in Leukerbad, Switzerland. Before that, Brian Stemmle placed third in Furano, Japan, in 1985.

Bourque had never finished in the top 10 in World Cup competition. His previous best results were a pair of 17ths in the -Gs at Kitzbuehel. Austria and Val Gardena, Italy this year. Miller was next, and now leads

the discipline standings. Michael Walchhofer, winner of downhill races Friday and Saturday, finished fifth in 1:18.40 and is third in the standings with 229 points.
"It's just one point," Mille Miller

said. "It doesn't mean that much.
There are a couple of races left

and it will probably go down to the wire And Hermann Majer is skiing well. "It was tough to run from

where we were today," Miller added, referring to the later starters "I think with better conditions Hermann could have won

finished eighth in 1:18.54

Jaidee wins Malaysian again KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand shot a 2-under 70 on Sunday to win the Malaysian Open for the second straight year. 34-year-old a

Thongchai.

former paratrooper, finished at 21 under for his seventh career title, three strokes ahead of Jyoti Randhawa of India top-ranked player in Asia joined Graham Marsh (1974-75) and Tomoo Ishii (1964-65) as the only golfers to win back-to-back Ma laysian Opens since the tournament was first held in 1962

He also tied South Korean Kang Wook-soon for most victories in the region.

Randhawa birdied the last hole en route to a 67. Henrik Stenson of Sweden was third at 17 under

after a 67 Irishman Paul McGinley (68) and Niclas Fasth (68) were fourth, nine strokes back Padraig Harrington, playing in the final group, faded to a 74 and finished tied for eighth, 11 behind.

McCullough seizes ACE lead

NAPLES, Fla. - Mike Mc-Cullough shot a 3-under 69 to take a two-stroke lead over Hale Irwin and Mark James in The ACE Group Classic

The 59-year-old McCullough, seeking his third Champions Tour victory, had a 9-under 135 total on the TwinEagles course. Irwin the 50-and-over tour's career victory leader with 41, shot a 70. James had a 68.

Curtis Strange, playing his first senior tour event, followed an opening 74 with a 71. The two-time U.S. Open champ was tied for 32nd, 10 strokes back.

Mauresmo tops V. Williams ANTWERP, Belgium — Top

seed Amelie Mauresmo heat Venus Williams 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 on Sunday in the Diamond Games for her first win of the year, denying the American a \$1.3 million gem-encrusted racket.

Williams, who complained af-

terward of a stomach injury, needed to heat Mauresmo to win the gold-and-diamond trophy, which goes to the first three-time winner in any five-year span. Since she won the title two of the last four years, Williams will have a last shot at the trophy next year.

Mauresmo trailed almost throughout the three-set thriller at the sold-out, 14,600-capacity Sports Palace and fought from behind in the last two sets, belying her reputation for struggling under pressure.

The 25-year-old Mauresmo now has 16 career titles and closes in again on WTA No. 1 Lindsay Davenport, a position she briefly held last year.

Federer rallies past Ljubicic ROTTERDAM, Netherlands -

Top-ranked Roger Federer of Switzerland rallied from a set down to beat Ivan Ljubicic 5-7-5, 7-6 (5) and win the ABN Amro indoor tournament Sunday.

The match was capped by an entertaining third set of winning shots, duels at the net and a tense tiebreaker. It was a sharp contrast to the last time they met in a final, when Federer won 6-3, 6-1 at the Qatar Open in January.

Even Great One can't revive the NHL

BY HELENE ELLIOTT AND CHRIS FOSTER

Los Angeles Times

The last, faint hope of reviving the NHL season was obliterated Saturday when league and union executives walked away from a 6½-hour meeting in New York without an agreement — and with

a deepening distrust.
Although Commissioner Gary
Bettman had canceled the season
Wednesday, players thought
enough time and flexibility remained to forge a deal and play a
28-game season. But even the addition of Wayne Greezby and
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to free agents.

Sources said players felt stung by a "bait and switch" when the MHL didn't improve its last offer of a salary cap at \$42.5 million and stipulated the cap would not increase if revenue grew during a six-year deal. The NHL is also said to have cut its revenue-sharing offer, tightened rules on salary arbitration and qualifying offers to free agents, and set a dolar-for-dollar luxury tax at \$35 million.

League sources said the union continued to seek too high a salary cap and wouldn't negotiate a luxury tax potent enough to curb spending. "The bottom line is they just don't trust each other," a source familiar with Saturday's talks said. "It's done. It's over with.

"This is worse than what happened on Wednesday. I don't know where we go now. The league and everyone involved with it is in a free-fall at this

Gretzky, managing partner of the Phoenix, Coyotes, and Lemieux, player-owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, contacted Bettman on Thursday and urged him to hold one last meeting before it would become impossible to squeeze in an abbreviated season. The three met Friday night in New York, where it's believed they dis-

cussed whether the NHL would

accept a \$45 million salary cap if

the union agreed to conditions

that would discourage extrava-

gant spending.

Bob Goodenow, the NHL Players' Association executive director who opposed renewing talks
and didn't initially accompany
the union delegation, was excluded from the main meeting Saturd
ay. However, he and Bettman
were nearby and were consuled
during the numerous breaks.

In addition to Gretzky and Lemieux, the NHL was represented by Bill Daly, its chief legal coun-

44 It was crystal clear from our standpoint that

we weren't [close to a deal], and that was evident today.

> Trevor Linden NHLPA president

of business relations.

the season?

sel. The union was represented

by Ted Saskin, its senior director;

Trevor Linden, its president, Colo-

rado Avalanche forward Vincent

Damphousse, a member of its ne-

gotiating committee, and former

player Mike Gartner, its director

to start up another meeting for

failure," Ron Salcer, a prominent

agent, said. "I thought it would be

the perfect ending: You bring in

Wayne Gretzky and Mario Le-

mieux - the game has never

seen greater ambassadors. What

better ending than to see these

two knights in shining armor

riding in on white horses to save

Instead, they were tripped up by their long-standing differenc-

nificant could happen."

"I truly believed something sig-

"We knew for a long time this is

"I didn't think they were going



where it was going," Kings President Tim Leiweke, a staunch backer of Bettman, said. "Mr. Goodenow is very predictable.

is very predictable.

"We have rolled over in the past, and he thought we would roll over again. You look at the track record the last 10 years and look at who gave in each time: It was us. I told everyone we owners had

put ourselves in this position. Too often we've panicked, given in, caved. Not this time. And we never will. Do I love not having hockey? No. But if we have to exist another year without hockey, we will."

The mity of each side had fractured since the cancellation announcement. Several owners voiced anxiety to Bettman on Thursday about damage to the league's image and bottom line, and many players said they were puzzled by the union's about-face and acceptance of a salary cap moday. The failure to save the season or generate enough understanding to schedule further talks could intensify an already caustic and costly dispute.

"I think it's a bad ending," Leiweke said. "Whatever pool of revenues we had to share just got a lot smaller. This thing is going to go backward. The pain will get larger, the effect will get larger and the revenues the league generates will get smaller."

Betman, whose decision to reconvene talks was criticized by a few owners, explained his actions in a letter to the league's Board of Governors, who will meet next week. In the letter, obtained by The Times, he said: "after Wednesday's amouncement we were hearing a number of reports that Trevor Linden wanted to hear from us. Since we ultimately want a new collective-bargaining agreement, we did not stand on ceremony and we made contact.

"However, we also advised that the union should not assume that the season would be resurrected.

"On Friday morning Trevor spoke with Bill and said they would like to have us include Wayne and Mario in the meeting. To sum up the discussions, the union is still intent upon negotiatline to the meeting of the line to the meeting of the new or concrete on the table. At this time, there is no deal here. I was correct on Wednesday when I said we were much further apart than the media was portray-

A source said players feared that if they had yielded a little Saturday, Bettman would have pushed for a lot.

"It was crystal clear from our standpoint that we weren't [close to a deal], and that was evident today," Linden said.

Stewart steers through bump, skid into Victory Lane

BY MIKE HARRIS The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Tony Stewart drove through the grass, passed his buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. and wound up in Victory Lane.

Stewart, the 2002 NASCAR Nextel Cup champion, claimed his first victory on Saturday on his 42nd career start in the stepladder Busch series.

He also ended Earnhardt's three-race Busch winning streak at Daytona International Speedway.

"I had the drama, had the recovery, had the comeback," said Stewart, who charged to the lead with three laps remaining and won under a yellow flag after a last-lap crash. "I could not have scripted it any more exciting if I was making a movie."

Stewart, driving a Chevrolet owned by fellow Nextel Cup bad boy Kevin Harvick, led a race-high 46 laps on the 2½-mile oval.

Stewart's hopes nearly ended with 25 laps to go when a bump from Carl Edwards sent Stewart skidding through the infield grass at 190 mph. Somehow, he kept the car going in the right direction, steering it back onto the high-banked oval.

"I couldn't pay the fines for what I was thinking," Stewart quipped. "There were a lot of things going through my mind. The first was, 'What am I going to tell my mom from the emergency room?"

"It turned out a lot better than I thought it would. I thought I was going to hit the wall. It was just a matter of how hard." Stewart fell to eighth, then to 17th after

his crew needed extra time on the next pit stop to repair the damage.

Meanwhile, the focus turned to Earn-

hardt. Junior played a waiting game early in the race, content to stay near the back of



Tony Stewart (33) takes the checkered flag under caution in the Hershey's TAKE 5 300.

the pack along with teammate Martin Truex Jr., the defending Busch champion. After the halfway point, Earnhardt and Truex began drafting their way toward the front, quickly moving into the too 10. When the other leaders made their final pit stops during a caution period with 20 laps remaining, Junior stayed on the track and moved into the lead. Truex took only two new tires and came out second. That's when Stewart began his charge, slicing through the field and moving to fifth on another restart with four to go.

Then, with drafting help from Harvick, Stewart went roaring past the leaders on the outside of turn three. They held on for a 1-2 finish as a three-car accident behind them brought out a caution for the final lan.

"He deserved to win a lot more than he has, and we're glad he broke that wall down," said Harvick, who will use Stewart in five more races this season.

Earnhardt, who will go into Sunday's Daytona 500 as the favorite to repeat last year's victory, shrugged off the third-place finish.

"That's Tony Stewart," Earnhardt said. "He can do anything."

Truex, who will make his first Daytona 500 start Sunday, was encouraged by his fourth-place showing.

"Harvick and Stewart must have ganged up," Truex said. "They were coming like a freight train, and there was no way we were going to stop it." Kasey Kahne wound up fifth, followed

by Robby Gordon, Michael Waltrip, Greg Biffle, 19-year-old Reed Sorenson and Carl Edwards. Cup regulars — the "Buschwhackers" —

Cup regulars — the "Buschwhackers" took eight of the top 10 spots.

"We got ganged up on by those Cup guys," said Sorenson, a Busch rookie.

NASCAR spokesman Mike Zizzo said a postrace inspection revealed Stewart's car was too low by a fraction of an inch, but inspectors later determined that the off-course excursion caused damage to the underside of the car that made it too low.

SPORTS

BC celebrates 'on top of hill'

No. 6 Eagles 'create space' in Big East standings by beating No. 9 Syracuse

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Jared Dudley threw the ball in the air and let out a triumphant yell. Before long, the Boston College student body would join him on the court.

Dudley scored 21 points before dribbling out the final seconds in the sixth-ranked Eagles' 65-60 victory over No. 9 Syracuse on Saturday, setting loose a storm of students who charged the court to celebrate one of the most anticipated matchups in school history.

"Tve never had that here," said Craig Smith, BC's Big East player of the year candidate, who had 16 points and 15 rebounds. "It didn't surprise me because I got here two hours before the game and people

were going crazy."

Jermaine Watson went 5-for-6 from the free throw line down the stretch for BC (22-1, 11-1), which opened a two-game

lead over No. 18 Connecticut in the conterence. Syracuse (22-5, 9-4) and No. 17 Pittsburgh are another half-game behind BC, which is leaving for the Atlantic Coast Con-

ference next season.
"It ain't over," BC coach Al Skinner said.
"We were still going to be in first place if
we lost, but it gave us a chance to create a
little more space at the top. This is a big
win for us."

Gerry McNamara scored 18 points for Syracuse, but he missed three three-pointers in the final 28 seconds — two of them airballs — and went 2-for-11 from beyond the arc overall. The Orange have lost four

of their past six games, all to ranked teams. Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim snickered about the Conte Forum crowd charging the court, something usually reserved for big

upsets.
"I thought they were ranked sixth in the country," he said sarcastically. "Maybe they just think we're better than we are."

A hockey school which has always been show to get excited about its revenue sports, Saturday's game attracted some rare attention from the student body and the Boston fans still basking in the Patriots' success and eager for the Red Sox to start a

The usual rivalry with Syracuse became more intense when BC said in 2003 that it would leave the Big East for the ACC, which courted the Orange but did not invite them. Syracuse extracted its revenge with a 43-17 victory in football last fall that knocked the Eagles from a lucrative Fiesta Rowl bid to the Continental Tire Rowl

With both basketball teams holding top-10 rankings, the game sold out quickly, tickets were being scalped at many times face value and fans were lined up at both sides of the arena before the game, waiting for the gates to open.

"They were predicting it would be the

biggest game in Conte's history," Watson said. "We just have a huge target on us. We're on top of the hill."

we're on top of the nili."

The Eagles held a 58-52 lead with 1:15
left when Louie McCroskey hit a
three-pointer to put Syracuse within one
possession. But Nate Doornekamp turned
Hakim Warrick away with 56 seconds left

and Dudley came away with the ball.
Warrickfinished with 12 points.
Dudley made two free throws to make it
60-55. McNamara missed a three-pointer
but hit the next one to make it a two-point

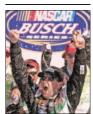
Watson made one of two free throws, and McNamara fired up another from far beyond the arc — an airball that Josh Pace put back to make it 61-60 with 27 seconds left. Watson hit two more free throws, but McNamara threw up another airball and it

took the Orange 8 seconds to foul.
With Dudley waving his arms to encourage a crowd that didn't need it, Watson hit two more free throws to make it 65-60.

Outfitted to make the highlights



Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith heads toward the basket during the NBA All-Star slam dunk contest on Saturday night in Denver. Smith, wearing the jersey of the former dunk king nicknamed the human highlight reel, won the contest. See Page 27 for coverage of the NBA's All-Star Saturday.



Stewart ends Earnhardt's streak with Busch victory

Page 31



Hopkins, 40, wins 20th straight title defense

Page 30